
Cane River Creole National Historical Park
Oakland Plantation
The Cottage
Historic Structure Report

2002

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and

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for

Historical Architecture, Cultural Resources Division

Southeast Regional Office

National Park Service

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Historic Structure Report

Cottage

Cane River Creole National Historical Park

Natchitoches, LA

LCS#: 100629

Cover image: Cover photographs courtesy of Sandra Prud'homme Haynie, from her book, *Legends of Oakland Plantation*, Shreveport, 2001, and courtesy of Doris Brett Vincent.

The photographs surrounding the Cottage are of persons who lived in the house. Beginning from the lower right-hand corner and proceeding clockwise around the perimeter, the images are: Pierre Phanor Prud'homme I, who built the Cottage, or for whom it was built; a sketch of the probable original appearance of the Cottage; Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme, son of P. Phanor Prud'homme I, and his wife, Elisa LeComte Prud'homme; the Cottage in 1938; Arnold Cloutier and his wife, Virginia LeMeur Cloutier; Suzanne Lise Metoyer Prud'homme, wife of P. Phanor Prud'homme I; Pierre Phanor Prud'homme II and his wife, Marie Laure Cloutier Prud'homme; Lucie Leveque Prud'homme; August Lambre Prud'homme, husband of Lucie Leveque; Jesse Emmett Brett II and his wife, Marie Adele Prud'homme Brett; the Cottage in 1957; Prud'homme family showing (L to R), first row: Louise Desiree Cloutier Prud'homme, Daisy Marguerite Prud'homme, Francis Reginald Prud'homme, Edward Carrington Prud'homme; second row: Emma Laura Buard Prud'homme, Julie Buard Prud'homme, and Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme (of these, only Edward Carrington Prud'homme, his wife, Emma Laura Prud'homme, and his son, Francis Reginald Prud'homme, are known to have lived in the Cottage); and Elise Elizabeth Prud'homme, bride of Wilbur Guy Cloutier.

Cottage
Cane River Creole National Historical Park
Historic Structure Report

Approved by: Jana Gates 7/2/07
Superintendent Date
Cane River Creole National Historical Park

Recommended by: [Signature] 7-9-07
Chief, Cultural Resources Date
Southeast Regional Office

Recommended by: [Signature] 7-16-07
Associate Regional Director Date
Cultural Resource Stewardship & Partnership
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FOR Regional Director Date
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Table of Contents

Management Summary

Executive Summary	9
Administrative Data	ii

Part I: Developmental History

Historic Time Line	15
Historical Background and Context	19
Chronology of Development and Use	27
Physical Description	41
Summary of Materials Research Findings	65
Drawings	69
Bibliography	79

Part II: Treatment and Use

Treatment and Use	83
Requirements for Use	83
Requirements for Treatment	86
Alternatives for Treatment	87
Ultimate Treatment and Use	88

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Historical Summary

From the time of its construction until the time of its sale to the National Park Service as part of the creation of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park, the Cottage has been used as a family residence, mostly to house members of the Prud'homme family who owned and developed the area first known as Bermuda Plantation and later known as Oakland Plantation. In fact, during its nearly 170- year history, it housed families unrelated to the Prud'hommes for a total of only about 35 years. Though the Main House of the Plantation has received a majority of the interest and attention, the Cottage deserves important billing as a significant structure in the life and culture of the area and the times. The purpose of this report is to demonstrate the importance of this structure to the Prud'hommes and Oakland Plantation and to explore the means by which the National Park Service can preserve it and use it as a vital part of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park complex.

Research regarding the historical background of this structure was conducted through reviews of previous research on the history of Prud'homme families and their associates, the development of the Plantations that they owned, and the cultures and times in which they lived. Genealogical information regarding the Prud'hommes and the extended family that surrounded them compiled over many years by Rosalie Lucile Keator Prud'homme proved invaluable to this effort. United States census records gave further insight into the considerable mobility of this family group within what might be considered a small world. Tour brochures written by Robert DeBlieux, descendant of earlier residents of the area, helped to establish the locations of many of the plantations along the Cane River and provided background information on the many interrelated families that lived in them and in Natchitoches.

Interviews with several family members provided information not otherwise documented on the families that inhabited the "Cottage" and the changes they made to it. Together, these various resources painted a picture of the Cottage as a home, regarded by the Prud'homme family as secondary only to the Main House, and used by them for 150 years as a place to raise their families and celebrate their lives.

Architectural Summary

The Cottage is a one- story, wood- framed structure set on brick and concrete piers with approximately 2,525 square feet of living space. The primary components of the structure include ten rooms and a front and rear porch, as well as all or part of three fireplaces. The gable roof extends the full length of the building with a change in pitch over the southwest quadrant of the house. A *cabinet-like*¹ enclosure of the south end of the front gallery has created a small room that is purported to have been used as a doctor's office. Overall, the structure is in sound and stable condition with only localized structural deficiencies. Though currently vacant, the house has been used for storage at times and was last occupied as a residence in 1997.

The period of significance for the Cottage is from 1834- 1960. The Cottage exhibits a sequence of modifications from about 1834 to 1960 that parallel the history of the plantation. It is clear from research and field analysis that the original cottage was a traditional Creole cottage structure with two rooms, central fireplace, *bousillage*² wall construction and

¹ A cabinet was a small enclosure, usually enclosing a portion of an existing gallery, often used for sleeping rooms. The walls were most often simple upright planks, with no insulating material between them and the interior.

² *Bousillage* was a common means of creating insulated walls generally used in Louisiana until the close of the Civil War. A system of horizontal lathes was installed between the upright members of a wall. These were

front and rear galleries. There is strong evidence that rear *cabinets* with *bousillage* walls were added after the original construction but before 1870. At the same time or during the same time period, a center hall was created by the construction of a bousillage wall in the north room. Later, a southwest room was created behind the original south room by enclosing part of the rear gallery or expanding an already existing rear *cabinet*. This expansion dramatically changed the exterior character of the cottage by changing the roof profile from a hip roof to a gable end roof to accommodate the roof framing requirements of the southwest room expansion. A detached kitchen was constructed off the rear of the house, probably before 1870, as well. In 1870, the resident doctor, Dr. Leveque, received permission to add an office to the house, and, at that time, the south end of the front porch was enclosed. In 1880, a major addition was added to the north end of the house to accommodate the new family of Lucie Leveque, Dr. Leveque's daughter, who had married. In the late 1920s, a bathroom was added, and, in the 1950s, the kitchen was brought into the house with the modification of the southwest room. The final phase of modifications to what started as a modest cottage was a series of renovations in 1957 that included the installation of a composition shingle roof, asbestos shingle siding, gypsum wallboard interior finish over board walls, and vinyl sheet flooring over plywood sub-flooring applied to well worn unfinished flooring.

The Cottage is significant for the progression of building on the plantation. There are a number of common features and characteristics between the cottage and other buildings on the property, including the main house. The core of the significance of the structure is the original Creole cottage embedded within the south part of the larger structure. Though subsequent modifications have altered a number of the original cottage

then draped with a mixture of clay and plant material or animal hair that had been rolled into sheets and dried. The bousillage could remain the exterior finish of a structure, but it was usually either plastered and whitewashed or covered with board to protect the material.

features, the basic components of the original are intact: hip roof framing, *bousillage* walls, central fireplaces, and hand hewn and numbered beams (visible in the attic). Each subsequent modification to the original cottage carries its own significance in relation to the corresponding period of time, fashion or style, and social and economic circumstances.

Recommendations

The recommendations established for the Cottage in the General Management Plan for the Cane River National Historical Park is to use it as a park office. The recommended treatment is to accommodate that use within the framework of a preservation treatment giving preservation a priority over function where function will meaningfully threaten historic materials, features, and character. In simple terms, the goal is to preserve the house as it exists today while accommodating office functions. This approach will include:

- Preservation, repair and maintenance of the existing features of the cottage.
- Introduction of new electrical capacity in the structure that respects the existing electrical features meaningful to the period of significance.
- Introduction of a modern, non-central air conditioning system to support office functions, the choice of systems and method of installation to minimize the impact on historically significant materials, features, and character.
- Adaptation for handicapped accessibility including a ramp and providing accessible restrooms outside the confines of the historic structure.
- Upgrading the existing restroom to provide for non-disabled staff.
- Reroofing with composition roofing to match type, exposure, and profile of the 1960- era roof.
- Provision of interpretative features in the house, including the interpretation

of the Creole cottage and later building systems such as the *bousillage* walls, the chamfered original columns on the front gallery, and the layers of history represented in the layers of wall finishes both within and without the house.

National Heritage Area Natchitoches, Louisiana.” National Park Service Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta. 1997.

National Park Service. *Cane River Creole National Historical Park, Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.* 2000.

Administrative Data

Locational Data

Building Name: The Cottage
Building Address: 4414 Hwy. 494
Bermuda, LA 71457
LCS #: 100629

Related Studies

Jones, Tommy. *Main House, Oakland Plantation, Cane River National Historical Park, Historic Structure Report.* National Park Service Southeast Regional Office, 2001.

Jones, Tommy. *Prud’hommes Store, Oakland Plantation, Cane River National Historical Park, Historic Structure Report.* National Park Service Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, 2001.

Keel, Bennie C., and Christina E. Miller, “Gabe Nargot’s Cabin – Investigations at a Nineteenth Century Slave Domicile in Northwest Louisiana.” Paper presented at 1999 Society for Historical Archeology Conference, Salt Lake City.
<<http://www.cr.nps.gov/seac/gabes/> 15 Dec 2000>.

Lawliss, L., C. Goetcheus, and D. Hasty, “*The Cultural Landscapes Inventory and Assessment, Cane River Creole*

Cultural Resource Data

National Register of Historic Places: The Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud’homme Plantation (Oakland Plantation), contributing structure, originally listed 29 August 1979 (upgraded from local to statewide significance 2 August 1989) under Criteria A for association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The Cottage was included in January of 2001 as part of Oakland Plantation.

Period of Significance: The period of significance for Oakland Plantation concludes about 1960, around the time that the last of the sharecroppers and tenants were leaving the plantation. This appears to be an appropriate date for the Cottage, even though it continued to be used as a residence until 1998, as 1957 was the time of the last renovation.

Proposed Treatment and Use: The proposed use is for a National Park Service site office. The treatment, using a period of significance extending from c. 1835 to c. 1960, would generally retain, repair, and restore the finishes and features in the house at the time of the last set of modifications. Additionally, it would be necessary to upgrade the mechanical and electrical systems as well as strengthen the structural system to accommodate this proposed use.

PART I
DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

HISTORICAL TIME LINE

21 Oct 1786 – Jean Baptiste Prud’homme dies in Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, New Spain. After the death of his wife in 1788, his sons, Jean Pierre Emmanuel, Antoine, Dominique, and Francois and his daughters, Marie Louise, Nanette, and Susanne inherit his estate.

1800 – Spain cedes the Louisiana Territory to France.

1803 – United States government purchases the Louisiana Territory from France.

24 Jun 1807 – Pierre Phanor Prud’homme I born to Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud’homme and Marie Catherine Lambre.

1810 – Eman’l Prud’homme is enumerated in the 1810 census of “the Territory of Orleans” with a wife and three children.

5 Feb 1812 – Pierre Emmanuel Prud’homme files claims with the government of the United States to tracts of land along the Red River (now, Cane River) that would become Bermuda Plantation.

26 Jul 1816 – Claims of Emmanuel Prud’homme for land in Natchitoches Parish are confirmed by the United States government.

22 Nov 1818 – Suzanne Lise Metoyer, daughter of Francois Benjamin Metoyer and Marie Aurore Lambre, born.

1818- 1821 – Emmanuel Prud’homme replaces his original home on Bermuda Plantation with a larger structure farther back from the river, the Main House that stands today at Oakland Plantation.

1830 – Census indicates a cluster of property owners similar to that in the 1810 census and, to some degree, the 1820 census. Listed in order are Benjamin Metoyer, Antoine Prudhomme, Lestan Prudhomme and Man’l Prudhomme. Further down river, Nevil [sic]

Prudhomme, followed much later by Francois Prudhomme and then Narceas [sic] Prudhomme. The census indicates that only Emmanuel, his wife, and Phanor were living on the property in 1830.

1832 – James A. Leveque born.

12 Dec 1835 – Pierre Phanor Prud’homme I marries Suzanne Lise Metoyer.

1834- 1840 – Possible date of construction of the Cottage.

17 Apr 1838 – Jacques Alphonse Prud’homme I born to Pierre Phanor Prud’homme I and Suzanne Lise Metoyer.

11 Aug 1839 – Marie Emma Prud’homme born to Pierre Phanor Prud’homme I and Suzanne Lise Metoyer.

1840 – Pierre Phanor Prud’homme I is listed as a separate head of household in the 1840 census.

19 Nov 1840 – Elise Elizabeth Lecomte, wife of Jacques Alphonse Prud’homme, born.

January 1842 – Phanor Prud’homme notes in his records that he had begun the extension of the house. Because the final modifications to the Main House have been determined to have concluded about 1835, it seems reasonable to assume that this work was being done on the Cottage. Based on the sequence of construction established by field observations, the extension to which he referred is believed to be the enclosure of parts of the rear gallery to form *cabinets* or the expansion of an existing *cabinet* to create what is now the southwest bedroom.

February 1842 – Phanor Prud’homme notes “I have contracted with the painter Morin to have the two houses painted giving him Nathan for the sum of \$150 which is \$75 for each.”

Abt. 1844 – Theresa Marie Kirkland, wife of Dr. James A. Leveque, born.

8 Jan 1844 – Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme II born to Pierre Phanor Prud'homme I and Suzanne Lise Metoyer.

13 May 1845 – Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme I dies.

26 May 1848 – Marie Theresa Henriette Prud'homme born to Pierre Phanor Prud'homme I and Suzanne Lise Metoyer.

4 Aug 1848 – Marie Catherine Lambre Prud'homme, wife of Emmanuel Prud'homme I, dies.

19 May 1852 – Suzanne Lise Metoyer, wife of Pierre Phanor Prud'homme I, dies.

Abt. 1854 – August Lambre Prud'homme born to Lestan Prud'homme and Marie Eliza Lambre.

1860 – Federal Census taken. Indicates a Dr. Heulin living in what is now called the Cottage.

12 Apr 1861 – Civil War begins at Ft. Sumter, Charleston, South Carolina.

1862 – Phanor builds a fence “between the Dr. and me and the camp.

14 Feb 1862 – Notation to “make plank fence to Doctors Yard” appears in plantation journal.

April 1862 – In plantation journal, Phanor Prudhomme mentions renting “a negress” to Dr. Lahaye at \$12 a month at the same time that he was renting the doctor a house for \$100 a year.

December, 1862 – Dr. J. A. Leveque marries Theresa Marie Kirkland.

Abt. 1864 – Marie Lucie Celeste Leveque (Lucie) born to Dr. J. A. Leveque and his wife, Theresa Marie Kirkland.

6 Jun 1864 – Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme marries Elise Elizabeth Lecomte.

28 Apr 1865 – Last of the Confederate armies surrender. End of the Civil War.

20 Sep 1865 – Edward Gamaliel Lawton, husband of Marie Cora Prud'homme and resident of the Cottage, born.

20 Jun 1866 – Doctor J. A. Leveque and his wife and daughter, Lucie, move in to the Cottage at Bermuda Plantation.

1868 – Joseph Mark Leveque born at Bermuda (Oakland) Plantation to Dr. J. A. Leveque and his wife, Theresa Marie Kirkland.

12 Jul 1869 – Edward Carrington Prud'homme born at Bermuda (Oakland) Plantation to Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme, Sr. and Elise E. Lecomte.

1871 – Dr. Joseph Leveque receives permission from the Prud'homme family to renovate and add to the existing house. He encloses part of the front porch to use as an office to see and treat patients.

25 Jan 1871 – Marie Laure Cloutier, wife of Pierre Phanor Prud'homme II, born to Francois Xavier Emile Cloutier and Marie Coralie Buard

20 Oct 1871 – Marie Cora Prud'homme born to Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme and Elise E. Lecomte.

1873 – Formal division of Bermuda Plantation results in Atahoe Plantation on the east side of Cane River and Oakland Plantation on the west side.

23 Oct 1873 – Emma Laura Prud'homme born to Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme and Julie Buard of Atahoe Plantation.

17 Jun 1880 – Lucie Leveque marries August Lambre Prud'homme, son of Jean Jacques Lestan Prud'homme and Marie Elise Lambre.

1880- 1881 – Dr. Leveque receives permission to enlarge the house in which he lives. He builds an addition to the north for his daughter, Lucie, and her husband.

1890 – Marie Therese Leveque, Joseph Mark Leveque, and Lucy Leveque Prud'homme leave Oakland Plantation, taking Lambre and Lucie's daughter, June, with them. None of them ever return to Oakland Plantation except briefly after the death of Doctor Leveque.

3 Feb 1891 – Pierre Phanor Prud'homme II marries Marie Laurie Cloutier at the Cora Lambre Plantation.

August, 1893 – August Lambre Prud'homme, Lucie's husband, dies.

11 Dec 1893 – Dr. James A. Leveque dies.

7 Aug 1894 – Marie Cora Prud'homme marries Dr. Edward Gamaliel Lawton. They move into the Cottage.

17 Oct 1894 – Edward Carrington Prud'homme marries Emma Laura Prud'homme.

27 Nov 1898 – Francis Reginald Prud'homme born to Edward and Emma Prud'homme.

22 Feb 1899 – Wilbur Guy Cloutier, husband of Elise Elizabeth Prud'homme, born to Francois Alexis Cloutier and Merie Celine Buard.

Jun 1900 – Census taken. J. Alphonse Prud'homme is enumerated as head of household with his wife and younger daughters. Also enumerated in his household (that is, not as separate heads of household) are Lecomte (Uncle Buddy), and Edward Prudhomme, both listed as clerks in store. Edward's wife and son, Reginald, are also listed in this household, indicating that Reginald was probably born in the Main House and not in the Cottage. Pierre Phanor Prud'homme II is listed separately as a head of household, apparently living in the Cottage.

12 Dec 1900 – Elise Elizabeth Prud'homme born to Pierre Phanor Prud'homme II and Marie Laure Cloutier.

1901 – J. Alphonse Prud'homme builds a house at what is now called Riverside Plantation for his son, Pierre Phanor Prud'homme, and family.

3 Mar 1903 – Marie Adele Prud'homme born to Pierre Phanor Prud'homme II and Marie Laure Cloutier.

16 Feb 1906 – Jesse Emmett Brett, Jr. born to Jesse Emmett Brett, Sr. and Maude Prud'homme.

Apr – May 1910 – Federal Census taken. In this census, Edward G. Lawton and wife, Cora Prud'homme Lawton and their family are listed immediately before the family of J. Alphonse Prudhomme. In conjunction with other census records, it appears that the Lawtons may have been living in the Cottage in 1910.

24 Apr 1914 – Journal of Edward Carrington Prudhomme notes "Covering kitchen Old House (Leveques) where I now reside – needed badly."

17 Feb 1919 – J. Alphonse Prudhomme dies.

1920 – Census taken. In this census, Mrs. J. Alphonse Prudhomme is listed separately as a head of household with her daughter, Julia, and a cook. In the next dwelling are listed Phanor Prudhomme and his family. This may indicate that Phanor moved into the Cottage following the death of his father, necessitating a move of the Edward Prud'homme family to Riverside Plantation to the south. And, indeed, they are enumerated about 11 dwellings after Phanor Prudhomme and his family.

20 Oct 1923 – Elise Elizabeth Lecompte Prud'homme (Mrs. J. Alphonse) dies.

10 Jun 1925 – Elise Elizabeth Prud'homme marries Wilbur Guy Cloutier.

1925 - 1929 – Bath and plumbing (cold water only) are added to the Cottage by Guy and Elise Cloutier while they are renting the house.

24 Apr 1930 – Louis Arnold Cloutier born to Wilbur Guy Cloutier and Elise Elizabeth Prud'homme.

21 Sep 1931 – Virginia LeMeur, wife of Louis Arnold Cloutier, born to Alcide and Virginia LeMeur.

Historical Background and Context

1 Sep 1932 – Adele Prud'homme marries her cousin, Jesse E. Brett, Jr.

1934 – Guy and Lise Cloutier complete their new home and move out of the Cottage.

1936 – Jesse E. Brett and Adele Prud'homme Brett are living in the Cottage.

11 Oct 1936 – Doris Ann Brett born to Jesse E. Brett and Adele Prud'homme.

1936- 37 – Rural electrification comes to Cane River.

1938 – A photograph is taken of the Cottage, showing a white picket fence, similar to the one in front of the Main House, surrounding part of the front yard. It also shows that the roof had been replaced at some time with a metal roof.

Jan 1940 – Jesse E. Brett and his daughter, Doris, are photographed in front of the Cottage garage.

Apr 1941 – The Cottage is purchased by Jesse E. and Adele Prud'homme Brett.

Jan 1949 – The Jesse Brett family moves to Texas, leaving the Cottage vacant.

29 Aug 1951 – Louis Arnold Cloutier marries Virginia LeMeur.

1952 – Arnold and Virginia Cloutier renovate the Cottage. They rent it from the Bretts and move in October of 1952, but move out again in December of that year.

1954 – Alphonse and Jane Prud'homme move into the Cottage. They move the kitchen into the small back hall, where it is currently located.

1956 – Jesse and Adele Brett return to the area and move into the Cottage.

1957 – Jesse and Adele Brett renovate the Cottage.

20 Feb 1974 – Adele Prud'homme Brett dies. Jesse Brett continues to live in the house.

1984 – Jesse E. Brett moves to Little Rock, Arkansas. He rents the house to Joe Beck Payne, who was the husband of Adele's nephew's daughter.

11 Mar 1985 – Doris Ann Brett Vincent draws house plans for Evelyn Tudor Stallings of the arrangement of the Cottage when she was a girl.

4 Dec 1987 – Jesse Emmett Brett dies. Doris Brett Vincent inherits the Cottage.

1994 – Joe Beck Payne moves out of the Cottage. Margo Haas, a cousin of Doris Vincent, rents the house from Doris.

6 Jun 1997 – Archeological auger testing uncovers an intact, *in situ* brick feature in the front of the doctor's house.

Jun 1997 – Archeological auger testing locates a “construction rubble” feature next to the filled cistern north of the Cottage (behind the garage).

June 1997 – Archeological auger testing located a midden near the location of the former gristmill behind the Cottage.

1998 – Doris Brett Vincent sells the Cottage to the National Park Service to complete their acquisition of the plantation complex of Oakland Plantation.

2001 – Utility crews working in the area of the Cottage garage discover a brick floor under the existing garage, with a brick “apron” in front of it.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Much has been written regarding the Natchitoches Prud'homme family. That they were among the first families of Louisiana when the territory belonged to the French, and continued to be one of the prominent families of the area through the subsequent occupation of the Spanish, the re-establishment of French control, and the acquisition of the territory by the United States government, is indisputable. During their tenure on the land along the Cane River, they established a successful agricultural enterprise and prospered despite the vicissitudes of national politics and economy. Pragmatists, they adopted new technologies with alacrity, and adjusted to new political realities when obliged to do so. Idealists, they attempted to find ways to coax the best they could from the soil on which they lived and the people who worked it. Finally, 200 years after the establishment of their plantation at Isle Brevelle along the Cane River, they sold an important part of it to the National Park Service to establish a park that would serve to educate the public and preserve the remnants of a vanished way of life.

As early as 1758, Jean- Baptist Prud'homme had acquired land along what was then called the Red River and begun to farm it, growing indigo and tobacco as the main crops for export.³ According to family tradition, his oldest son, Jean Pierre Emmanuel, was farming land that would become Oakland Plantation by 1787, though his residence in the early 1790s was still on a 51- acre tract opposite the post at Natchitoches.⁴ However, by the late 1790s, family tradition holds that Emmanuel Prud'homme had purchased the property from Nicholas Rousseau, the original owner, and built a small home on the banks of the river.⁵

In 1803, the United States Government purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, and, in 1810, when the third United States Federal Census was taken, a census of the "Orleans Territory" was conducted as well. By that time, the Prud'hommes were well established on plantations along what was then called the Red River. A comparison of the 1810 census of the "Orleans Territory" and the Walmsley plat of 1816 indicates that the census- taker, John C. Carr, who was probate judge at the time⁶, essentially cruised down the river, taking names and statistics as he went. This is useful to know because it helps to establish the locations of persons enumerated in later records. Thus, we see that Emmanuel Prud'homme was living on land located between that of his brother, Antoine,⁷ on the north, and his brother- in- law, Remy Lambre⁸, on the south, which is consistent with the location of the lands associated with what is now Oakland Plantation. The 1810 census establishes that there was only one residence on the property at the time (residences of slaves were not enumerated), in which resided Emman'l Prud'homme, his wife, Marie Catherine, their youngest son, Phanor, aged 3 years, and the twin daughters, Adele and Adeline, aged 10 years⁹. The three older children in this family had already married and established homes for themselves elsewhere.

The land on which the Prud'hommes established their plantations is described as follows, starting from the south, near Colfax, and moving to Grand Encore, north of Natchitoches. "The village of the Boluxa Indians (near Colfax) stood where the river divides into two branches, forming an island about fifty miles in length and three to four in width. On the right hand ascending was the stream called Rigolet de Bon Dieu (now Red River), on which there were no settlements in

³ Anne Patton Malone, "Oakland Plantation, Its People's Testimony," unpublished MS, National Park Service, 1998, pp. 24-25.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 26.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Donna Rachal Mills, *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana*. Mills Historical Press, Tuscaloosa, 1985, p. 10.

⁷ Lucile K. Prud'homme, comp. "The Prud'homme Family," genealogical information, p. 2.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

1812. On the left hand (now Cane River) was the boat channel to Natchitoches, and on this branch, for twenty- four miles, were several rich plantations. Above the old River Cane settlement, the river divided again, forming an island thirty miles in length, called Isle Brevel. This island was subdivided by a bayou, which crossed it from one river to the other. The middle or Cane River was called Little River, and was the boat channel. The westward channel, old river or false river, was navigable; but, owing to the lowness of its banks there were no settlements visible in 1812. The river passed through Lac Occasee (where Prudhomme now is), and above, at Natchitoches, the two channels met, while the Rigolet du [sic] Bon Dieu (now the main channel) left the present Cane River at Perot's plantation one mile below Grand Encore Bluffs, six miles up the stream from Natchitoches."¹⁰

On July 26, 1816¹¹, a certificate was issued by the United States government in favor of Emmanuel Prud'homme under an order of survey and settlement for lands he claimed to own and for which he had filed claims with the government in January of 1812 and which claims had been accepted in February of that year.¹² In addition to claim No. B- 1850, which comprised both sections 104 and 44 of Township 8, North Range 6, lying on both sides of the Red (now, Cane) River, which were the lands originally granted to Nicholas Rousseau, Emmanuel Prud'homme was granted land under claims No. B- 1811 and B-1812, originally granted to Pierre Baden, claim No. B- 1813, originally granted to Sebastian Prud'homme, claim No. B- 1814, originally granted to Jean Baptiste Brewoele, and claim No. B- 1815, originally granted to Dominique Rachal.¹³ It is uncertain where these other claims were located, though it seems likely that one of them was section 40, which appears as

part of the Emmanuel Prudhomme holdings in the Walmsley plat of 1816. The issuance of these certificates indicates that, contrary to family legend, the lands of Emmanuel Prud'homme did not come to him through an earlier grant from the French or Spanish governments. They appear to have come to him by the method of providing proof to the United States government of at least 10 years of continued and uncontested occupancy of a property, including improvements, this proof resulting in confirmation by the government of the claim of ownership. Usually, this method of proof is required where a valid bill of sale is not available. The Prud'homme family insists that Emmanuel Prud'homme paid for his lands, and that is probably the case. The problem may have been that the original grantees did not have proof of the right to sell it, resulting in the necessity of Emmanuel Prud'homme being obliged to claim "squatter's rights," even though he had previously purchased the land.

By 1818, the frequent flooding of the Red River (now the Cane River) and the subsequent erosion of the riverbank¹⁴, induced the Prud'hommes to build another home at a distance further from the banks of the river.¹⁵ Work was begun on a larger home, which was built some distance behind the location of the original house, sometime after 1818 and finished in 1821. This second home stands today, identified as the Main (or Big) House at Oakland Plantation.

Before 1822, the Emmanuel Prud'homme family had moved into their new home. By this time, only their youngest son, Phanor, remained at home with them.¹⁶ It is important to note that the 1830 census enumeration does not suggest another dwelling on the Emmanuel Prud'homme plantation on the same side of the river as the Main House. Miller and Wood have stated that the Cottage

¹⁰ Mills, p. 4.

¹¹ Claim No. B-1850, Plat No. 799, Book C, p. 291, Plats of the Western District of Louisiana. A copy of this document is located in the Prud'homme Family Library.

¹² Lester Hughes, in letter to Mrs. Lucile Prud'homme, dated 12 May 1958.

¹³ Marshall H. Carver, in letter to Lester Hughes, n.d., quoted from *The American State Papers*, Vol. II, p. 717, and from enclosure entitled "Land Claims Filed with the United States Government", p. 1.

¹⁴ Duggan, Vivian Prud'homme. Interview with Deborah Harvey, 18 Oct 2001.

¹⁵ Malone, p. 26.

¹⁶ Fifth Census of the United States, 1830, Population Schedule, Natchitoches Parish, LA, reviewed online at Ancestry.com, 2001, image 19 of 62.

was built in the 1820s,¹⁷ and there has been some speculation that it pre-dates the Main House. The census does not indicate that this is the case. The families of Antoine and Lestan Prud'homme were enumerated immediately before that of Emmanuel Prud'homme. Immediately afterward is enumerated the family of a Joseph Johner, apparently a small farmer who owned eight slaves, and after this family was the family of a free person of color, owning one slave, followed by the enumeration of several families of Rachal. Taking into account the known positions of the Prudhomme and Rachal families, it is apparent that the census taker was headed south down the west bank of the river. While it is true that censuses were often not taken in the strictest order of the dwellings due to families not being at home at the time of the census, which necessitated the return of the census taker at another time, the census takers did make an effort to be as efficient as possible. Therefore, it is probable that the order in which persons are listed in the census is more or less the order in which they lived along the road, especially in a location such as this, where there was only one road. That being the case, the implication of the assertion that the Cottage was built before the Main House would be that it would probably have been occupied in the 1820 or 1830 censuses, if not both. If so occupied, it was occupied by persons having no documented relationship to the Prud'hommes.¹⁸ That being unlikely, it seems reasonable to assume that the structure known as the Cottage was built after 1830.

In fact, an event occurred in 1835 that suggests a possible date for the construction of the dwelling now called the Cottage. On 12 Dec 1835, Pierre Phanor Prud'homme married his cousin, Suzanne Lise Metoyer.¹⁹ He began to manage the plantation for his parents, and he and Lise started a family. It is probable that the house was built before the 1840 census. In

¹⁷ Christina Miller and Susan E Wood, *Oakland Plantation – A Comprehensive Subsurface Investigation*, National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, Tallahassee, 2000, p. 29.

¹⁸ *Fourth Census of the United States, 1820, Population Schedule, Natchitoches Parish, LA*, reviewed online at Ancestry.com, 2001, images 1 and 2 of 2. Also *Fifth Census* cited above.

¹⁹ Prud'homme, Lucille K., p. 3.

this census, Phanor Prud'homme was enumerated as a separate head of household from his father, indicating that they did not share a dwelling.²⁰ Two possibilities arise from the completion of renovations to the Main House and the construction of the new house. One is that the new house was built for the use of Phanor and his bride. The other is that the house was built for Phanor's parents, Emmanuel and Catherine Prud'homme, who could have moved to the smaller home when the family of their son began to grow, leaving the larger home for him. In either event, evidence of early wallpaper on beams framing the attic attest to the probability that this new house was at least partially constructed of salvaged portions of an older structure, possibly the original Main House built along the riverbank.

Emmanuel Prud'homme I died on 13 May 1845.²¹ His wife, Marie Catherine Lambre Prud'homme, died three years later, on 4 Aug 1848.²² By the 1850 census, the Phanor Prudhomme family occupied the Main House of what was then known as Bermuda Plantation.²³ Who occupied the Cottage between 1848 and 1860 is currently unknown. Though it appears to have been unoccupied in the 1850 census,²⁴ it may have been used by the plantation overseer during this time. By 1860, however, a doctor occupied it. The 1860 census indicates that a French doctor, a Doctor Heulin and his wife were, at that time, living in the cottage.²⁵ This location is verified by the enumeration of the plantation overseer, Seneca Pace, who is recorded in the next dwelling (which he referred to in his journal as his "new" house), and by the plantation records written by this overseer in 1860 which

²⁰ *Sixth Census of the United States, 1840, Population Schedule, Natchitoches Parish, LA*, reviewed online at Ancestry.com, 2001, image 30 of 108.

²¹ Prud'homme, Lucille K., p. 2

²² Ibid.

²³ *Seventh Census of the United States, 1860, Population Schedule, Natchitoches Parish, LA*, Microfilm roll #233, copy #M432, held at Historical Society Library, Old Courthouse, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ *Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Population Schedule, Natchitoches Parish, LA*, reviewed online at Ancestry.com, 2001, image 46 of 188.

make reference to Dr. Heulin.²⁶ The plantation records for 1862 make several references to fences “between the Dr. and me and the camp”²⁷ and “to Doctor’s Yard.”²⁸ In April of 1862, Phanor Prud’homme was renting “a ‘negress’ to a Dr. Lahaye at \$12 a month at the same time that he was renting the doctor a house for \$100 a year.”²⁹

The use of the house for a resident doctor may have been prompted by the war. Although the plantation had boasted a hospital since at least the 1850s,³⁰ Phanor Prud’homme may have felt the need to keep a doctor near as well. His sons, Jacques Alphonse and Pierre Emmanuel II, were both embroiled in the War Between the States, having enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861.³¹ In March of 1862, Alphonse was wounded. He was discharged from his unit and sent home to recuperate. He remained at Bermuda Plantation until July of that year, when he and his brother-in-law, Winter Breazeale, recruited five companies of cavalry and set off in September to do battle. However, in April of 1863, Alphonse was again wounded and obliged to return home to recuperate. By June of that year, he felt recovered enough to rejoin his unit. Still, he was mustered out of his unit in July of 1864 because of disability from the wounds that he had received and from which he had never properly recovered.³²

Unable to continue as a soldier, Alphonse Prud’homme turned to husbandry and husbanding. On 6 Sep 1864, he married Elise Elizabeth Lecomte³³, and set about assisting his father with the running of the plantation. This

was no small task, as the war had at last overrun “la Cote Joyeuse.”³⁴ The defeat of the Federal army at the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, north of Natchitoches, resulted in a retreat that led the Federal troops down the Cane (formerly, Red) River. The desire for vengeance got the better of the soldiers, and the orders of their superiors to burn only cotton and to refrain from burning other buildings were ignored as they engaged in widespread looting and burning of civilian property on their retreat to Federally-controlled territory.³⁵ Though they lost virtually all of their cotton to fire, and the steam-powered cotton gin that Phanor built in 1860 was destroyed,³⁶ the Prud’hommes were among the lucky. Neither the Main House nor the Cottage were harmed during the rampage. Family tradition attributes this good fortune to the story that “faithful slaves begged the yankees [sic] not to burn the home.”³⁷ Fortunately, the rest of the war was short. In April of 1865, the last of the Confederate Army surrendered. In August of that year, the oldest son of J. Alphonse and Elise E. Prud’homme, named Pierre Phanor Prud’homme II, was born.³⁸

Emmanuel returned home to Bermuda Plantation, and he and Alphonse undertook the management of the farm. Their father, Pierre Phanor, weakened by the demands of war, retired to the Lecomte’s townhouse in Natchitoches, where he died on 12 October 1865.³⁹ By that time, Jacques Alphonse

²⁶ Pace, Seneca, “Daily Record of Passing Events on Prudhomme [sic] Plantation, 1860, no page numbers, Prud’homme family Papers, 1788-1997, Series 3.1.5, Plantation Journals and Records, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

²⁷ Breedlove, pp. 53-54.

²⁸ Malone, p. 54.

²⁹ Breedlove, p. 90.

³⁰ Malone, p. 74.

³¹ Breedlove, pp. 24-26.

³² Fortier, Alcee, ed., “Jacques Alphonse Prud’homme,” *Louisiana, Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons Arranged in Cyclopedic Form*, Southern Historical Association, Atlanta, 1909, no page numbers.

³³ Prud’homme, Lucile K., p. 4.

³⁴ The name given to the Cane River Country by other Louisianians in the early 1800s. See DeBlieux, Robert B., *Cane River Country, “La Cote Joyeuse” and Kisatchie National Forest – An Auto Guide to the Historically and Architecturally Important Plantations of Creole Origins and a Guide to the Vistas, Hiking Trails and Flora of the Forest of Natchitoches Parish*, The Natchitoches Times, Natchitoches, 1993, p. 3.

³⁵ Brown, Sharon Sholars, ed., “Papers of the Fifth Grand Reunion of the Descendants of the Founders of Natchitoches,” (Conference held July 1984, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA), Special Collection, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana, p. 32.

³⁶ Breedlove, p. 36.

³⁷ DeBlieux, 1993, p. 21.

³⁸ Prud’homme, Lucile K., p. 23.

³⁹ Prud’homme, Lucile K., p. 3. Also see Melrose Collection, Scrapbook 256, Cammie Henry Research Center, Northwestern University, Natchitoches, Louisiana, for Phanor Prud’homme’s obituary.

Prud'homme and his family, along with Emmanuel, lived in the Main House at Bermuda. Who lived in the Cottage is unclear, though Alphonse and Elise may have lived there from late 1864 until the death of Phanor Prud'homme I. When Emmanuel married Julia Buard in January of 1866⁴⁰, the couple continued to share the Main House with the J. Alphonse Prud'homme family rather than incur the additional expense of setting up housekeeping for themselves.⁴¹ The Prud'homme brothers and their families worked together to rebuild their lives.

The Prud'hommes obviously felt that it was a good thing to have a doctor in the house. On 20 Jun 1866, Doctor James A. Leveque and his wife and small daughter, Lucie, moved into the Cottage at Bermuda Plantation.⁴² Dr. Leveque was to remain in the house for the next twenty-seven years. According to Stallings, his residency caused the dwelling to come to be called "the doctor's cottage."⁴³ While this is not strictly the case, it is certain that his occupancy of the house caused the term to come into common use. During that time, Doctor Leveque modified a portion of the residence to be used as an office for meeting and treating patients, possibly in response to the removal of the plantation hospital, said to have been located in the field between his home and the Main House. Later, he nearly doubled the size of the dwelling by building an addition to house his daughter, Lucie, and her new husband, August Lambre Prud'homme.⁴⁴

While Doctor Leveque was holding the house for them, future residents of the Cottage were being born and growing to adulthood. Edward Carrington Prud'homme was born to J. Alphonse and Elise E. Prud'homme at Bermuda Plantation on 12 Jul 1869.⁴⁵ Bermuda

Plantation was formally divided between J. Alphonse Prud'homme and Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme in 1870, and Pierre Emmanuel moved his family across the Cane River to his portion, which he renamed Atahoe Plantation. J. Alphonse Prud'homme renamed the portion of Bermuda Plantation that remained to him Oakland Plantation. Marie Cora Prud'homme was born to J. Alphonse and Elise E. Prud'homme on 20 Oct 1871 at the newly-renamed Oakland Plantation.⁴⁶ Emma Laura Prud'homme was born to P. Emmanuel and Julie Prud'homme of Atahoe Plantation on 23 Oct 1873.⁴⁷

In 1890, Lucie Leveque Prud'homme, with her mother, brother, and daughter, left the Cottage and Oakland Plantation for New Orleans, never to return.⁴⁸ Lucie's husband, Lambre, died in the summer of 1893,⁴⁹ and Dr. Leveque died in December of that same year,⁵⁰ leaving the Cottage empty for the first time in nearly thirty years. Stallings states that another doctor, who was a relative of the Prud'hommes, moved into the Cottage a few months after the death of Dr. Leveque.⁵¹ This was probably Dr. Edward Gamaliel Lawton, who married Marie Cora Prud'homme in August of 1894.⁵² Two months later, in October, her brother, Edward Carrington Prud'homme married his cousin from Atahoe Plantation, Emma Laura Prud'homme.⁵³ In 1900, the twelfth census of the United States was taken. J. Alphonse Prud'homme was enumerated as head of household with his wife and young daughters.⁵⁴ Also enumerated in his household (that is, not as separate heads of household) were Lecomte and Edward Prud'homme, both listed as clerks in the store.⁵⁵ Edward's wife, Laura, and their son, Reginald, are listed in this household.⁵⁶ This appears to indicate that the Edward

⁴⁰ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 4.

⁴¹ Prud'homme Family Papers, 1788-1997, Southern Historical collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

⁴² Evelyn Tudor Stallings, "Cane River Physician – the Practice and Letters of Dr. J. A. Leveque, 1832 – 1893," unpublished paper submitted to the North Louisiana Historical Association for consideration in the Graduate Division 1987 Overdyke Competition, 1987, p. 1.

⁴³ Stallings, p. 25.

⁴⁴ Ibid, p. 8.

⁴⁵ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 23.

⁴⁶ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 23.

⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 57.

⁴⁸ Stallings, p. 9.

⁴⁹ Ibid, p. 23.

⁵⁰ Ibid, p. 25.

⁵¹ Stallings, p. 25.

⁵² Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 23.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Population Schedules, Natchitoches Parish, LA*, reviewed online at Ancestry.com, 2001, image 45 of 61.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

Prud'homme family were living in the Main House when Reginald was born in 1898.⁵⁷ Enumerated immediately after the Prud'hommes was a black family, the Dorcinos, who were apparently living and working on the Prud'homme plantation, and, following them, was enumerated a single, white, male farm worker who was also apparently working for the Prud'hommes.⁵⁸ These persons may have been occupying the structures in the yard of the Main House that formerly housed the cook and other house servants.⁵⁹ P. Phanor Prud'homme II is enumerated next.⁶⁰ The Edward G. Lawton family is enumerated after the Metoyers.⁶¹ Since the Metoyers lived south of the Prud'hommes, this order seems to indicate that the Lawtons were not living in the Cottage in 1900, which may have been occupied by P. Phanor Prud'homme II⁶² and his wife, Marie Laurie Cloutier, whom he married in 1891.⁶³

In December of 1900, Elise Elizabeth Prud'homme was born to P. Phanor and Laure Prud'homme.⁶⁴ The world into which she was born was vastly different from the one in which her grandparents had lived, and would change even more dramatically during her lifetime. Electrical service would come to the Cote Joyeuse for the first time. The automobile and the airplane would make the carriage horses in her father's barn obsolete. Indoor plumbing, gas heating, and window air conditioners would forever change the homes in which she lived. Oddly, though, her life would also be much the same as that of her grandparents. She would grow up surrounded by an almost endless cloud of relatives, her extended family being, by this time, nearly impossible to document. She would live, at the beginning of her life, in the house in which she was probably born. And, she would die in the community in which she had been born, been married, raised her children, and lived her life. Her younger sister, Marie Adele, born

in 1903,⁶⁵ would follow closely in her footsteps. Between them, the two sisters would keep the Cottage occupied for many years. However, until they were grown, others occupied it.

In 1901, J. Alphonse Prud'homme built a new house at what is now called Riverside Plantation for his son, P. Phanor Prud'homme II and his family, and this was where Marie Adel Prud'homme was born.⁶⁶ However, in the thirteenth census of the United States, taken in 1910, it appears that they had moved back into the Cottage. They are enumerated a few families south of the J. Alphonse Prud'homme family, who were living in the Main House at Oakland. The household of "Eddy" Prud'homme is enumerated eleven families later.⁶⁷ Ann Malone states that the home of Edward Prud'homme at that time was Riverside Plantation.⁶⁸ By April of 1914, however, Edward Prud'homme appears to be occupying the Cottage, as evidenced by an entry in his journal: "Covering kitchen Old House (Leveques) where I now reside – needed badly."⁶⁹ This would have been the detached kitchen at the Cottage, since cooking facilities had not yet been moved into the house.

On February 17, 1919, J. Alphonse Prud'homme died.⁷⁰ This prompted another round of musical homes in the Prud'homme family. "His will instructed the division of the property, including Oakland, with Phanor receiving the 'old homestead,' the gin, the 'dwelling occupied by my son Edward [now referred to at the Cottage], and adjoining lands'.⁷¹ This indicates that the Edward Prud'homme family occupied the Cottage in 1919. However, in 1920, the census indicated that the P. Phanor Prud'homme family was occupying the Cottage at Oakland, while Mrs. J. Alphonse Prud'homme was living in the Main House with her daughter, Julia, and a

⁵⁷ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 34.

⁵⁸ *Twelfth Census*, image 45 of 61.

⁵⁹ Duggan, Oct. 2001.

⁶⁰ *Twelfth Census*, image 45 of 61.

⁶¹ *Ibid.* image 46 of 61.

⁶² Duggan, Oct. 2001.

⁶³ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 23.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 24.

⁶⁶ Duggan, Oct. 2001.

⁶⁷ *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Population Schedule, Natchitoches Parish, LA*, reviewed online at Ancestry.com, 2001, images 44-46 of 52.

⁶⁸ Malone, p. 109.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 136.

⁷⁰ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 4.

⁷¹ Malone, pp. 148-149.

cook.⁷² The family of Edward Prud'homme had moved back to Riverside Plantation.⁷³

On October 10, 1923, Elise Elizabeth Lecomte, Mrs. J. Alphonse Prud'homme died.⁷⁴ On June 10, 1925, her granddaughter and namesake, Elise Elizabeth Prud'homme, married Wilber Guy Cloutier,⁷⁵ and the newlyweds moved into the Cottage, Phanor Prud'homme having moved his family into the Main House between 1920 and 1925. Before the end of the decade, the Cloutiers had updated the old house by adding indoor plumbing and constructing a bathroom on the south of the building to replace the outhouse that had served the occupants of the Cottage for generations.⁷⁶ The Cloutiers lived in the Cottage from 1925 until 1934, when they moved into a new house that Guy Cloutier had built on his own land.⁷⁷ Some of their children were born there: Wilbur Guy, Jr. in 1926, Marie Laure in 1928, Louis Arnold in 1930, and Marie Ethelyn in 1932.⁷⁸

In the meantime, Elise Elizabeth Prud'homme Cloutier's sister, Adele, had married a cousin, Jesse Emmett Brett in 1932.⁷⁹ The Bretts moved into the cottage after the Cloutiers moved to their new home. In 1936, Adele bore twins, not an especially unusual occurrence among the Prud'hommes. The son, however, was stillborn; only the daughter, Doris Ann, survived.⁸⁰

Adele had always dreamed of owning the house in which she lived as a child,⁸¹ and, in 1941, the Bretts purchased the Cottage from the Prud'hommes.⁸² The Bretts occupied the house for about thirteen years. Before Doris was born, they did not always use the southern

bedrooms themselves, but rented them out to some of their cousins, who were school teachers like Adele.⁸³ After the Bretts moved to Texas, they rented the house to Guy and Lise Cloutier's son, Arnold, and his wife, Virginia LeMeur, whom he married in 1951.⁸⁴ The Arnold Cloutiers made some changes to the house, including remodeling the southwest bedroom that was used as a kitchen and tearing down the detached kitchen that had probably been behind the house since before the Civil War.⁸⁵ Arnold spent nearly a year renovating the cottage for their use, and the Cloutiers moved into it in October of 1952. However, by December of that year, they had located another residence and moved out of the cottage.⁸⁶ It was then rented for a time to James Alphonse Prud'homme III and Martha Jane Allen Prud'homme, who had also married in 1951.⁸⁷ Alphonse and Jane had moved to Texas by 1954,⁸⁸ however, and the house stood empty. In the summer of 1956, the Bretts returned,⁸⁹ and the following year made significant changes to the house, updating it with all the modern conveniences currently *en vogue*.⁹⁰

These changes are detailed more completely in the following section of this report, "Chronology of Development and Use." It is the result of these renovations that form the appearance of the structure today. Jesse and Adele lived in the house until 1974, when Adele died.⁹¹ Jesse continued to live there alone until about 1984, when he moved to Little Rock, Arkansas to be near his only child, Doris Brett Vincent.⁹² He rented the house to the former husband of the daughter of a nephew of Adele's,⁹³ keeping intact, more or less, the continued residency of Prud'homme relatives in the Cottage. Jesse Brett died in 1987⁹⁴ and his daughter inherited the house. Doris

⁷² *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Population Schedule, Natchitoches Parish, LA*, reviewed online at Ancestry.com, 2001, images x of x.

⁷³ *Ibid.*

⁷⁴ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 4.

⁷⁵ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 24.

⁷⁶ Stallings, p. 26.

⁷⁷ Cloutier, Arnold and Virginia, interview with Deborah Harvey, 19 Oct 2001.

⁷⁸ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 28.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 24.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 33.

⁸¹ Vincent, Doris Brett, interview with Deborah Harvey, 22 Oct 2001.

⁸² Stallings, pp. 26-27.

⁸³ Vincent, Doris Brett, e-mail to Deborah Harvey, 17 Jan 2002, and Duggan, Oct 2001.

⁸⁴ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 28

⁸⁵ Cloutier, Oct. 2001.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

⁸⁷ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 25.

⁸⁸ Duggan, Oct 2001.

⁸⁹ Vincent, 2002.

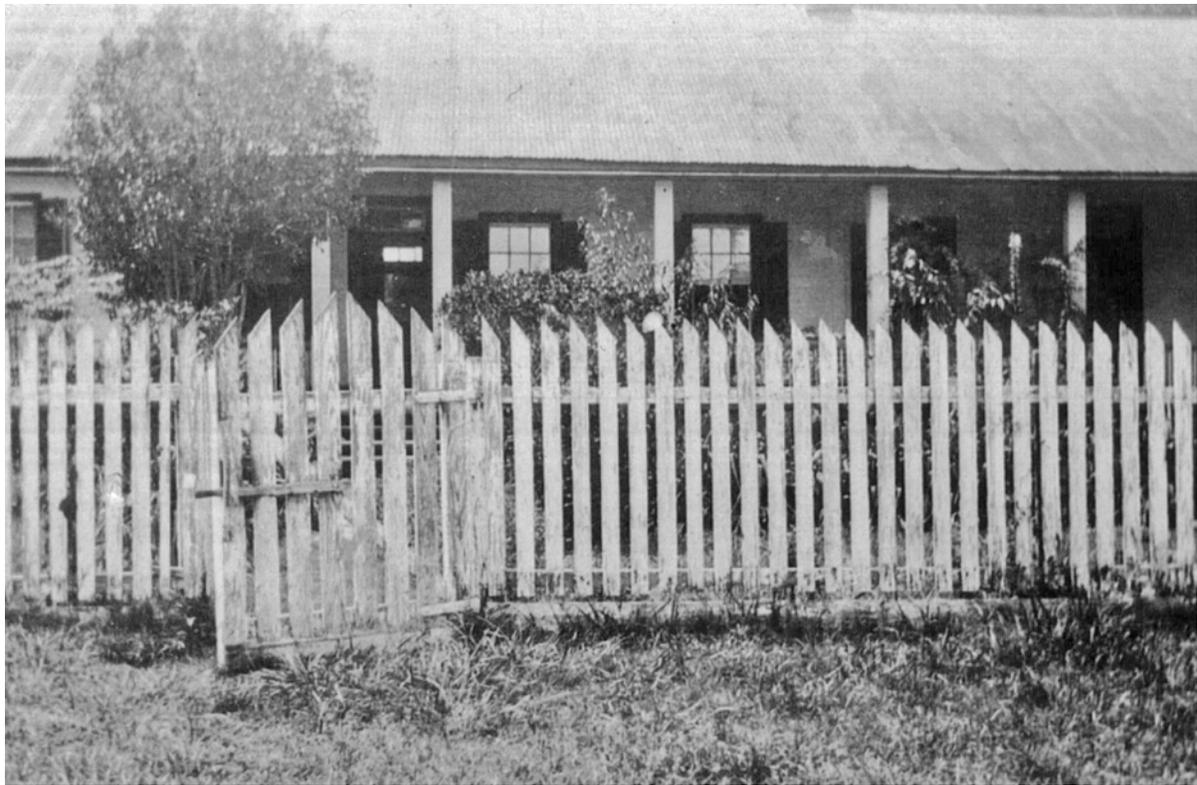
⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, and Stallings, p. 27.

⁹¹ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 24.

⁹² Vincent, Oct 2001.

⁹³ *Ibid.*

⁹⁴ Prud'homme, Lucile K., p. 24.



The Cottage, 1938. Picture courtesy of Doris Brett Vincent.

continued to rent the house to Joe Beck Payne until he moved to Texas in 1994.⁹⁵ Another relative, Margo Haas, then moved into the house and lived there until 1998,⁹⁶ when Doris sold the “Cottage” and environs to the

National Park Service to enhance their acquisition of the property known as Oakland Plantation, which would be included in a newly- created national park, the Cane River Creole National Historical Park.⁹⁷

⁹⁵ Vincent, Oct 2001.

⁹⁶ Duggan, Oct 2001.

⁹⁷ Vincent, Oct 2001.

CHRONOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT AND USE

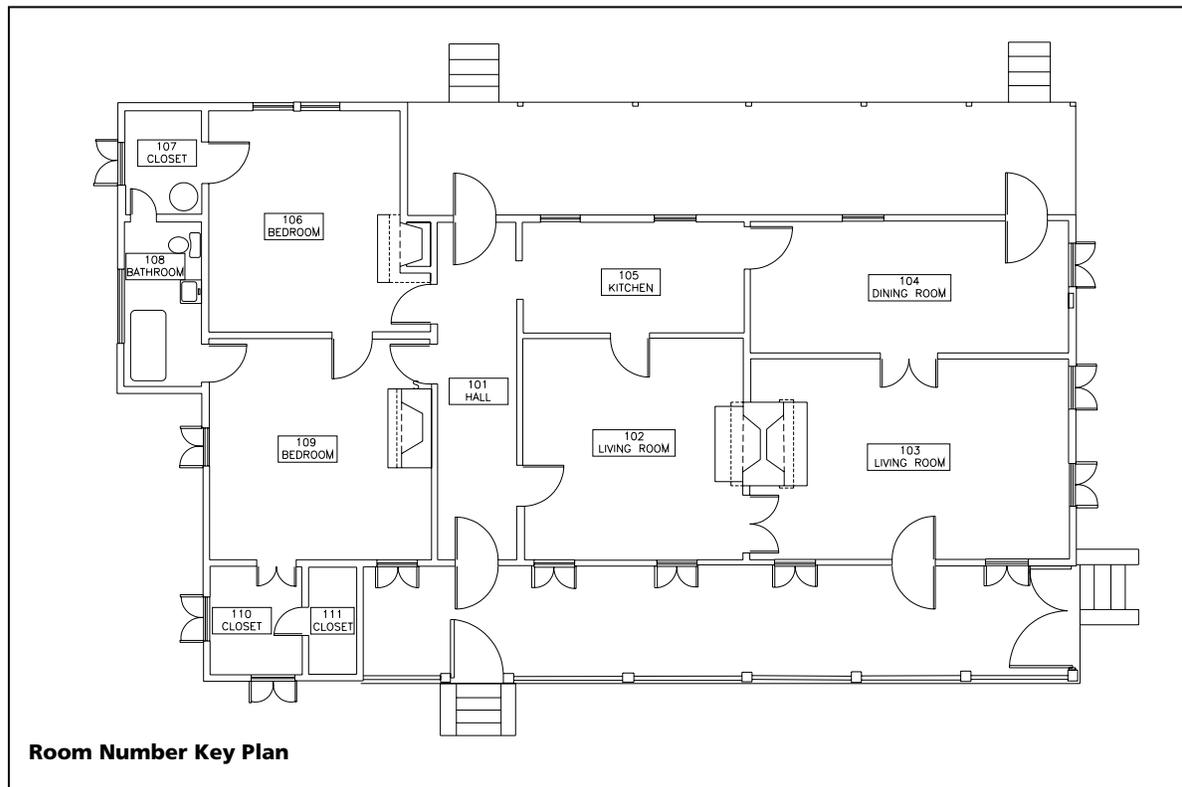
It seems certain that the Cottage was originally built for the use of members of the Prud'homme family. Indeed, that is the use to which it was largely put during the approximately 165 years since its construction. The home is believed, based on available data and physical evidence, to have been built as an adjunct to the Main House. It is not built on the scale of the typical Creole style Manor Houses; the profile is lower, the rooms smaller, the materials, finishes, and details more restrained. The probability is that the earliest part of the house was built between 1834 and 1840 as a residence for Pierre Phanor Prud'homme I and his bride, Susanne Lise Metoyer Prud'homme.

In discussing the chronology of the development and use of this structure, and in later discussions regarding the physical description and ultimate treatment and use, it was found useful to number each of the rooms in the house since their use often changed over time, making textual descriptions rather

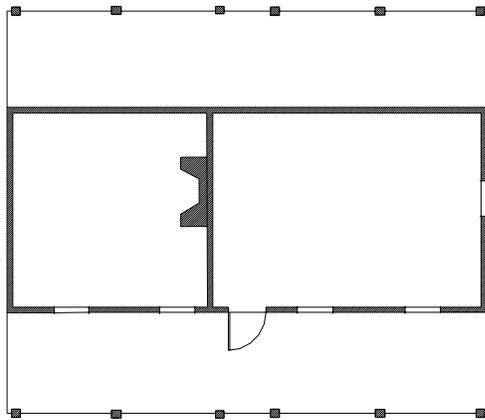
cumbersome. The plan below indicates the numbers assigned to each of the currently-existing rooms in the house.

Early Construction (1834- 1840)

The earliest identifiable assembly represents a traditional Creole cottage with front and back gallery, hipped roof, interior fireplace, and two rooms (now Rooms 101, 102, 105, part of 106, and 109). This assembly may not be the earliest incarnation of the house, but it is the earliest that could be identified with some certainty based on the information that is available. Characteristics in the floor framing within the identifiable Creole structure deviate from a straightforward presentation of structural framing, leaving open the potential for earlier phases of the building or other variations of the building's evolution. A significant character-defining feature of this assembly is that all the exterior and interior walls in this



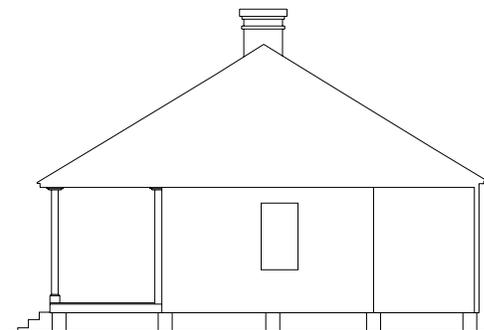
Creole Cottage (circa 1834-1840)



Plan (dark walls are *bousillage*)



East Elevation



North Elevation

part of the structure are of *bousillage* construction.

The locations of the *bousillage* walls and the hand-hewn timber, connected with mortise-and-tenon or dovetail joints provide clues to the extent of the house before the 1870s. The heavy 8x9 timbers framing the portion of the house that is now the living room, kitchen, southeast bedroom and east half of the southwest bedroom probably define the original home, which was likely a two room structure with front and back galleries covered by a steeply pitched hip roof, typical of Creole construction of the time. Longitudinal and transverse sections of this portion of the house exhibit, despite some remodeling in the intervening years, the profile of typical Creole framing discussed in Cazayoux's "Climatic Adaptation of French Colonial Architecture."⁹⁸

Significant character-defining features of the Creole cottage presentation that are no longer visible include the hip roof, chamfered gallery columns, and a two-rail railing, indicated by the dados on the inside of the chamfered columns inside the existing boxed front gallery columns. Sufficient remnants of the hip framing remain in the attic to provide reasonable assurance that, at an earlier time, the structure had a hip roof. It is not clear if what are now the front windows were double shutters or doors as would have typically been the style of opening onto a front gallery in a Creole cottage. Further investigation will be required to determine if openings onto the front gallery generally corresponding with the existing window openings exist in the front *bousillage* walls.

Also, the timber supporting the house on the north end, between the original construction and the 1880 addition, was replaced with slightly smaller members, perhaps when the 1880 addition was made. There is currently no evidence of early cooking facilities associated with this structure. A review of the culture of the times indicates that the Phanor

⁹⁸ Cazayoux, Edward, AIA, "The Climatic Adaptation of French Colonial Architecture into the Louisiana Raised Cottage" (<http://ecept.usl.edu/ecept/drafting/a/appa.html>), reviewed online 16 Jan 2001.

Prud'homme family may have taken their meals at the Main House when they were not out visiting friends and relatives and supping with them.⁹⁹ However, a detached kitchen was built at some time, the framing indicating that it existed before 1870.¹⁰⁰

It has been suggested that the earliest part of the Cottage is actually the original house built on then- Bermuda Plantation by Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme.¹⁰¹ Documentary evidence indicates that this is probably not the case, though there may be some parts of the house older than the suggested construction date of the house. It is entirely possible that parts of other earlier structures were used for framing this dwelling. Indeed, remnants of wallpaper found adhered to framing members exposed in the attic suggest that the earliest identifiable part of the cottage was at least partially constructed of recycled materials.

This finding provides a significant indication that the earliest part of the cottage was not the original Main House. Wallpaper such as exists on the attic beams would be typical of the type used in the main plantation house. Therefore, the conclusion may be drawn that part of this house was constructed from parts of either the original house or the existing Main House, which underwent several modifications between the time it was first constructed and the mid- 1830s.

However, researchers at the current Main House believe that any materials taken from that structure would have been used for modifications to the same structure,¹⁰² so the probability is that materials in the Cottage that are older than the 1830s came from the original house or, possibly, from some other structure owned by the Prud'hommes.

Modifications between 1834 and 1870

A number of modifications were made to the house for which a specific date or narrow period of likely construction can not be established. However, it appears that all were made between the time of initial construction of the Creole cottage and 1870, the date of the enclosure of the south end of the front gallery for a doctor's office.

A curiosity that remains to be clarified is the fact that there are four *bousillage* walls that appear to have projected onto the rear gallery-like floor framing on the rear of the Creole cottage portion of the structure. The floor gallery is similar to the floor framing of the front gallery. While it is not unusual to have Creole cottages with rear *cabinets*, the walls of the *cabinets* would have typically been simple plank walls like the north and south walls of room 201 in the Main House and not of *bousillage* construction such as exists on what would have been the rear gallery of the Cottage. In fact, the west walls of what would be rear gallery cabinets do not contain *bousillage*. The characteristics of the framing of the west wall of the would- be *cabinets* (the west wall of Room 105 is the only remaining wall that could potentially be an enclosure for a rear cabinet) are not known. When taken with the evidence presented above, suggesting the creation of the interior hall (Room 101) by adding a non- original *bousillage* wall inside the house seems to further support the possibility that the original Creole cottage was further modified at a time not discovered in the historical research.

It is probable that the interior hall *bousillage* walls and the rear cabinet *bousillage* walls were a later modification to the original construction. While evidence points to the possibility that interior and back gallery *bousillage* walls were added after the original construction, the characteristics of the west walls of the back cabinets remain a mystery.

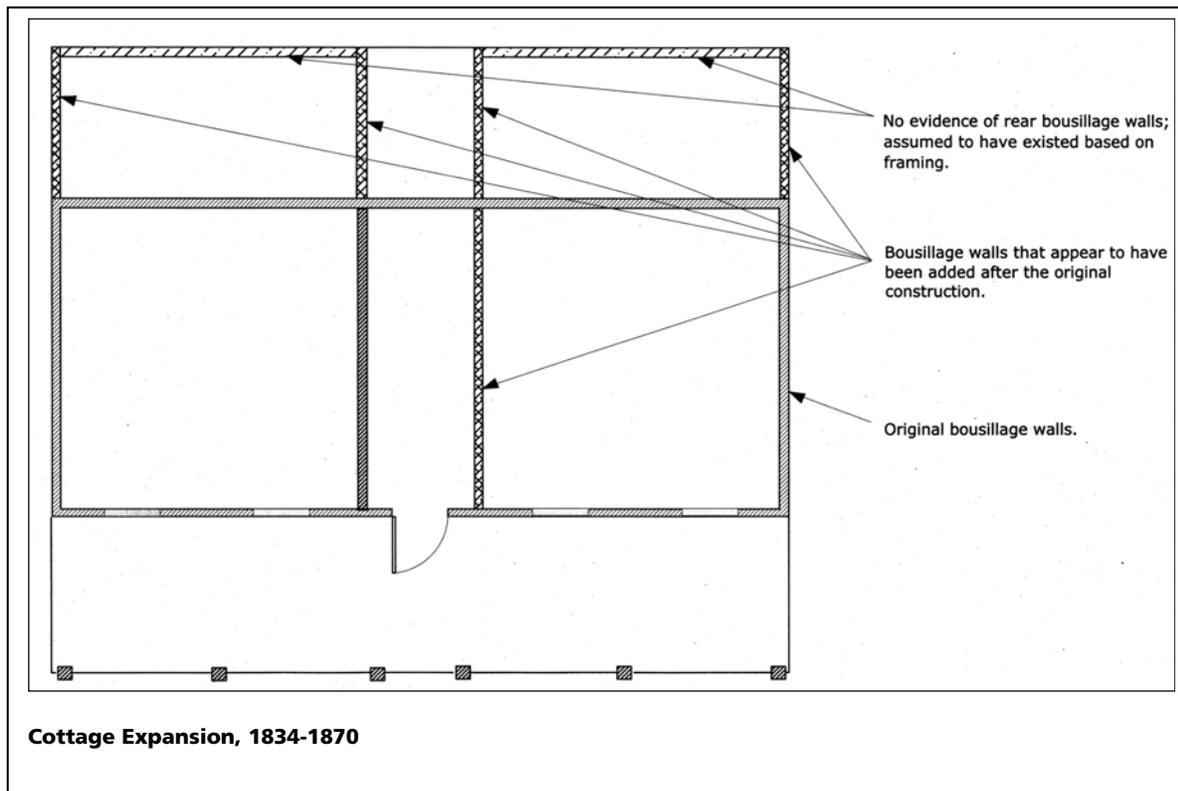
Based on available information, it seems most likely that the north hall wall and the *bousillage* walls over what would have been the back gallery of the Creole cottage, would not

⁹⁹ Prud'homme, Pierre Lestan, diarist, "Diaries" 1850-1852, Irma Sompayrac Willard Collection, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Watson Memorial Library, Northwestern University, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

¹⁰⁰ Cloutier, Oct 2001.

¹⁰¹ Miller and Wood, p. 29.

¹⁰² Tommy Jones, National Park Service, to Deborah Harvey, 18 Jan 2002.



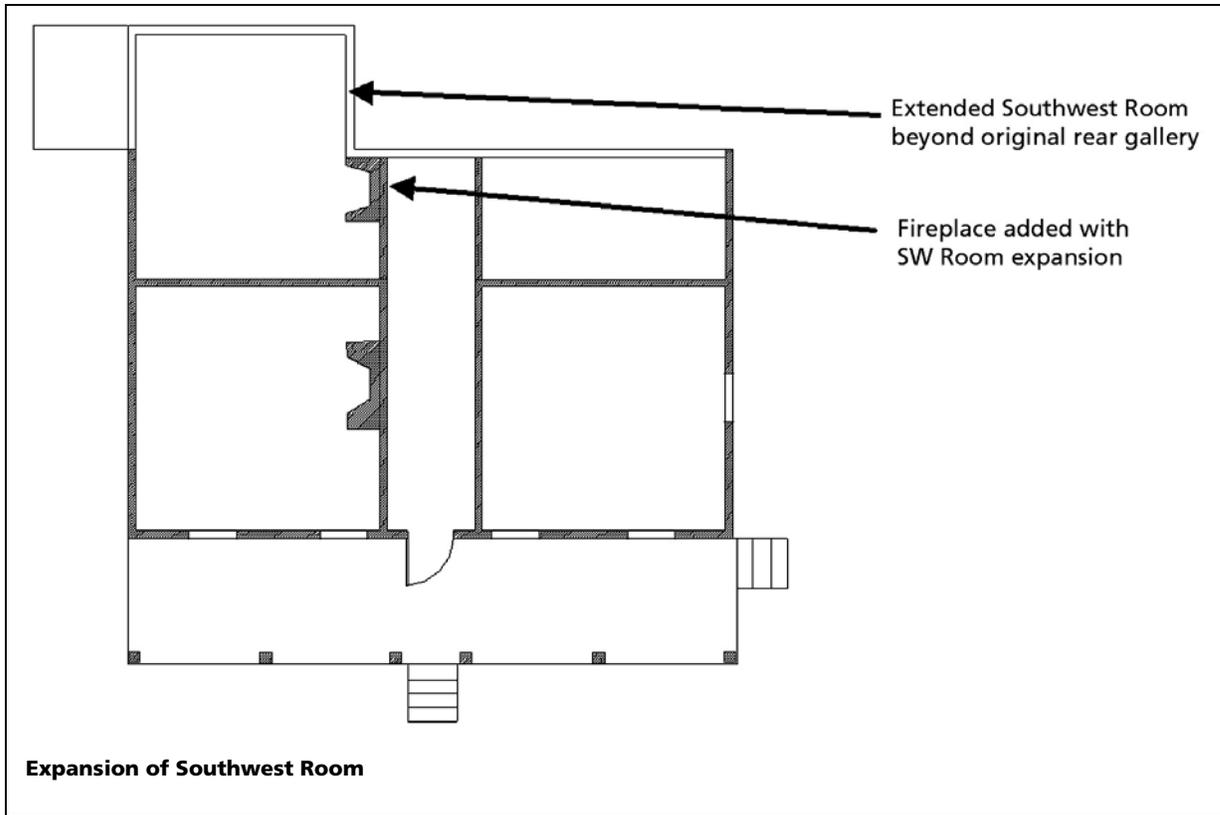
have been a part of the expansion of Room 106. This view is based on the odd floor framing under the south and north walls of the hall and the logic that, if the north and south *bousillage* wall projections onto the rear cottage gallery were added with the southwest room expansion, the entire exterior wall of the expansion would have been a *bousillage* assembly.

One possible explanation for the unusual configuration of *bousillage* walls is a set of modifications in the early 1840s. In his journal of 1841, Phanor Prud'homme I refers to beginning "the expansion of the house" in January and to hiring a painter to "paint the two houses" in February.¹⁰³ It is not certain that these entries refer to the Cottage, but it is probable, since the last major modifications to the Main House were made around 1835. Based on the framing of the floor and attic, it is evident that the house was remodeled at least once before 1870, when Dr. Leveque obtained permission to make changes to it. The

¹⁰³ Tom Thomas, "Historic Resource Study – Oakland Plantation" draft copy, National Park Service, n.d., p. 32.

improvements referred to by Phanor may have involved either enclosing the gallery on the west side to form *cabinets* for sleeping, a common method of providing some privacy,¹⁰⁴ or expanding an existing *cabinet* to the west to the current dimensions of Room 106. A telephone conversation with Ms. Carolyn McConnell Wells, an authority on domestic architecture of colonial Natchitoches, was conducted to explore explanations for the seemingly unusual usage of *bousillage* in a secondary structure such as the Cottage. Ms. Wells indicated she had not encountered a central hallway or rear *cabinets* of *bousillage*. She offered that it was unusual for the subordinate house to have a more "stylish" or formal plan (i.e. with a center hall) than the Main House. Though she could not explain the interior and rear *bousillage* wall configuration, she further speculated that those characteristics might suggest an older structure than the colonial period. Although documentary and physical evidence and family tradition do not support this theory, that possibility, however remote, does exist. The *bousillage* construction that form the

¹⁰⁴ Cazayoux, 2001.



exterior walls of the “Creole cottage” portion of the house and the *bousillage* walls forming the hall provide a time frame for the construction of this part of the house, since *bousillage* was not much used after the Civil War. It is known that *bousillage* was used until the Civil War because the overseer of the Prud’homme plantation at the time, Seneca Pace, built his “new” house of *bousillage* construction in 1861. That house stands in a field to the west of the Cottage, and exhibits many characteristics of typical Creole construction that originally formed the appearance of the Cottage.

Expansion of Southwest Room – Room 106 (Pre- 1880)

The modification of Room 106 produced a dramatic change in the character of the cottage, most notably the loss of the hip roof and the introduction of the vertical gable ends of the house. This modification clearly came after the introduction of the rear *cabinets* as the *bousillage* walls over the rear gallery are

incorporated into the expansion of the southwest room. The current ceiling of Room 106 was installed after the original *cabinets* were created, when the *cabinet* was expanded to the current dimensions of Room 106, evidenced by the fact that it is higher than that of the adjacent rooms, Rooms 101 and 109. That the original ceiling of the *cabinet* was on a plane with that of Room 109 can be determined by examining the empty dovetail joints in the attic framing between Rooms 109 and 106. Additionally, the flooring, which runs consistently east/west, rather than north/south as in Rooms 101 and 109, was probably installed when the expansion took place. The creation of Room 106 from an enclosed *cabinet* on the rear gallery required a modification of the roof pitch that was difficult to achieve with the hip framing of the Creole cottage. Consequently, the hip framing was modified to accommodate the gable roof configuration and lower pitch of the new room. It would appear that the creation of Room 106 required the removal of nearly every bit of construction of the southwest *cabinet* except the floor framing and the *bousillage* walls.

The sash- sawn lumber in the framing of this expansion suggests the room was added after the earlier hand- hewn construction period of the 1830s and before the circular sawn period of the 1880 addition. The ceiling framing over Room 106 is 2 ¼” x 6” sash sawn framing on 3’-6” centers. The ceiling framing is 13” above the top of the adjacent framing of the original structure, much less than the 19” height above the top of the original roof framing structure of the circular sawn ceiling framing of the 1880 addition. With the southwest room expansion came the addition of the second fireplace in the house. An examination of the floor framing for Room 106 indicates that a side porch (now an enclosed closet, Room 107) was

built at the same time as the floor framing beyond the original rear gallery framing that supports the east half of the floor of Room 106. A door on the south wall of Room 106 accessed this porch.

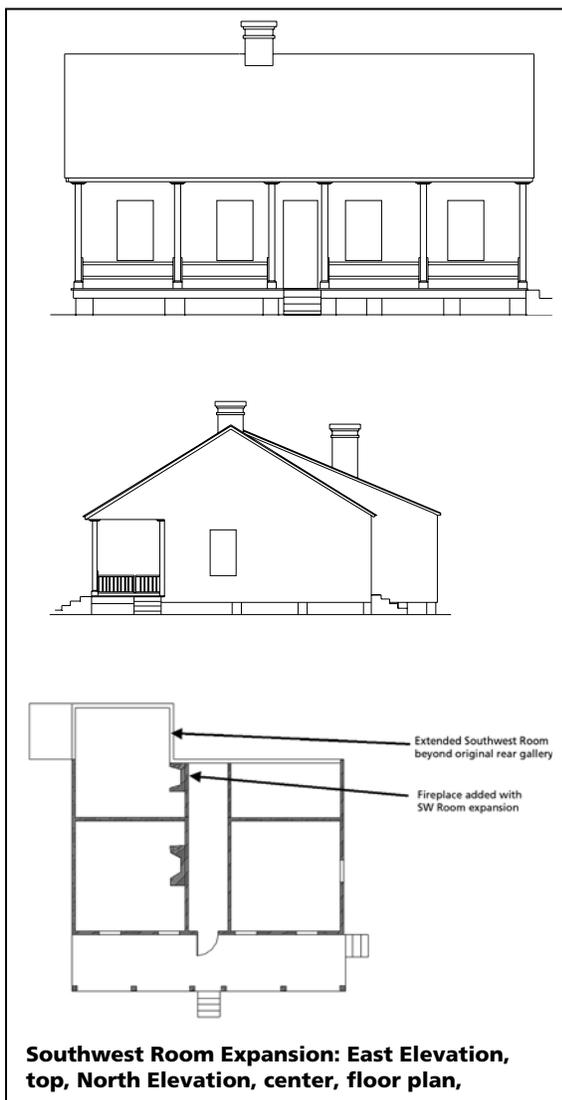
Detached Kitchen (1841- 1870)

In addition to the expansion of the house, it is possible that Phanor built a detached kitchen to the west of the house. According to oral history, the kitchen was a two- room structure constructed on posts and brick piers resting directly on the ground, each room being about 10’x12’, and was accessed from the house by a short, elevated plank walk leading to the kitchen porch, which ran along the south side of the detached kitchen. The room closest to the house was used for cooking, containing a wood stove and dry sink, and the back room was used for pantry storage.¹⁰⁵

This kitchen still existed until 1951 when Arnold Cloutier dismantled it.¹⁰⁶ Stallings states that Dr. Leveque built this kitchen,¹⁰⁷ but the construction method of pegged mortise- and- tenon jointing discovered by Arnold Cloutier¹⁰⁸ suggests that the kitchen pre- dated the occupation of the house by Dr. Leveque. Additionally, the evidence from the census records and farm journals that at least two doctors occupied the house before Dr. Leveque suggests that the kitchen was probably built before 1860 to accommodate persons living in the house who were not going to be taking all their meals with the Prud’homme family.

Enclosure of Doctor’s Office - Rooms 110 and 111 (circa 1870)

The enclosure of the “Doctor’s Office”, the small room at the south end of the front gallery (Room 110) was created in approximately 1870. The sketches suggest the character of the structure at the time of this



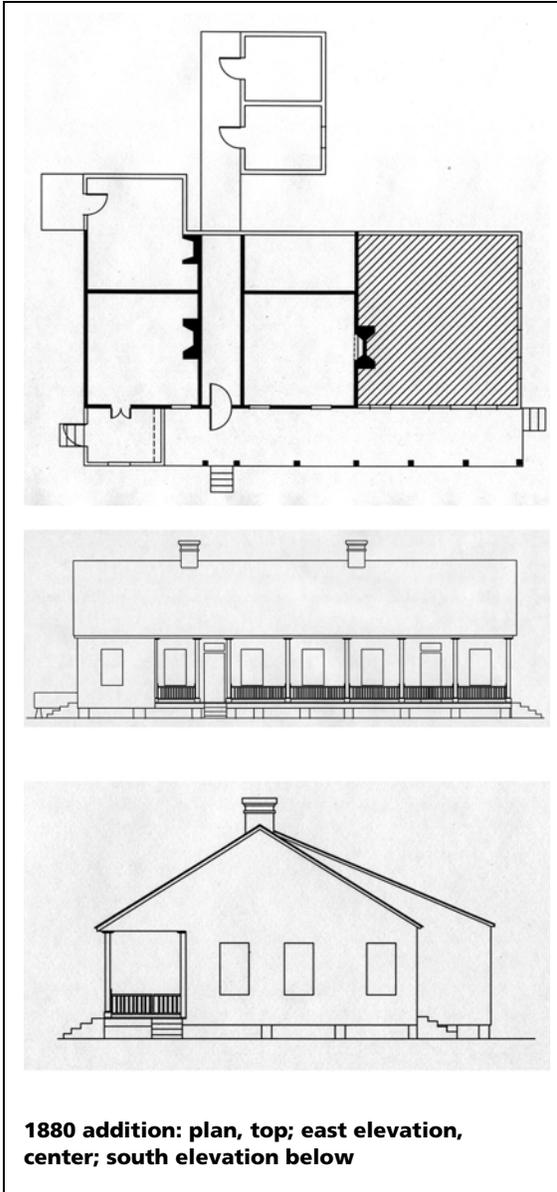
Southwest Room Expansion: East Elevation, top, North Elevation, center, floor plan,

¹⁰⁵ Cloutier, Oct 2001.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Stallings, p. 6.

¹⁰⁸ Cloutier, Oct 2001.



modification. The north elevation did not alter significantly with this change. About 1870, Dr. J. A. Leveque, who had moved into the house in 1866 with his family,¹⁰⁹ received permission from the Prud'hommes to make some changes to the house.¹¹⁰ Dr. Leveque enclosed a portion of the front gallery to create an office in which he could see and treat patients.¹¹¹ On the north wall, he built three cabinets of shelves covered by glass doors from floor to ceiling to hold his

medical equipment and supplies.¹¹² Doris Brett Vincent described the doors to the cabinets as having metal rods attached to the inside, at the top and bottom of the glass openings, with a fabric stretched between the rods to conceal the contents of the cabinets.¹¹³ The Doctor's patients entered by a door in the south wall of the room, and the office was connected to the house through a door in the west wall of the room.¹¹⁴

The construction of this addition is visible in the attic of the house, where the boards used to create the north wall rise several inches above the ceiling of the adjacent porch. It is apparent that these boards were recycled from an earlier structure, as remnants of white paint still adhere to the portions of the boards protruding into the attic. The ceiling in this room is about 6" higher than the ceiling in the adjoining southeast room. A small, square scuttle hole in this ceiling gives access to the attic. Whether it was installed by Dr. Leveque or later is not known.

North Addition – Rooms 103 and 104 (1880)

In 1880, Dr. Leveque's daughter, Lucie, married into the Prud'homme family. She married August Lambre Prud'homme on June 17, 1880,¹¹⁵ and Dr. Leveque built the substantial, one- room addition on the north to house his daughter and her husband.¹¹⁶ Though today this room is referred to as "Lucie's Room," it was also occupied by her husband, Lambre, and their daughter, June. The framing of the addition is closer to the conventional "stick" framing to which we are accustomed today.

The addition extended the house and front gallery to the north toward the main house by approximately 23'. This construction retained the gable roof of the earlier modification to the Creole cottage, extended the front gallery,

¹⁰⁹ Stallings, p. 1.

¹¹⁰ Miller and Wood, p. 29.

¹¹¹ Stallings, p. 6.

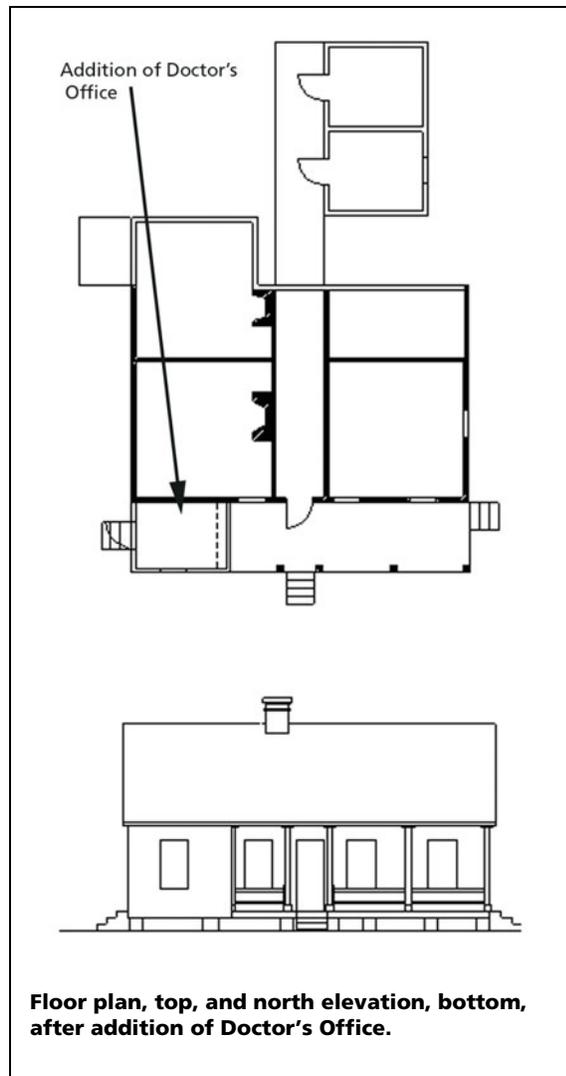
¹¹² Ibid and Vincent, 2002.

¹¹³ Vincent, 2002.

¹¹⁴ Ibid and Stallings, p. 27.

¹¹⁵ Prud'homme, Lucile K., Prud'homme Family Bible, no page number.

¹¹⁶ Stallings, p. 8.



Floor plan, top, and north elevation, bottom, after addition of Doctor's Office.

maintaining the established column spacing, and added the third fireplace on the south wall of the addition common with the north *bousillage* wall of earlier Creole cottage. The gallery extension provided the new addition with direct access to the outside, eliminating the necessity of traversing the original house. No door was provided between the existing parlor and the new addition when it was originally built. The third fireplace possesses hearths on both sides and serves both the original north room of the Creole cottage (Room 102) and the 1880 addition (Rooms 103 and 104). Dr. Leveque raised the ceiling in this room to a more fashionable height, approximately 21" above that of the original house. At some point, though not necessarily during the original construction, a closet or

foyer was constructed in the northwest corner of this addition.

Historic research and site observations suggest there was no rear gallery constructed as part of the new addition. The most notable changes to the exterior character of the house included boxing in the front columns to allow a consistent column presentation across the front of the house and installing a new front gallery picket railing, a change from the simple two rail railing of the earlier Creole cottage.

Dr. Leveque may have also added the west cistern and a north cistern that has since been filled and dismantled, though the two cisterns, while similar in construction, apparently varied drastically in height, the west cistern being only about 6" above grade and the north cistern reportedly rising 3' above grade.¹¹⁷ In 1890, Lucie, with her mother, her daughter, and her brother, left for New Orleans to enable Lucie to study for the opera.¹¹⁸ They did not return until three years later, after both Lambre Prud'homme and Dr. Leveque had died.¹¹⁹ After the death of Dr. Leveque, the house was returned to the use of the Prud'homme family, though it seems that, due to the tenure of Dr. Leveque, it was long afterward referred to as "Leveque's"¹²⁰ or "the doctor's cottage."¹²¹

Between 1893 and 1914, various members of the Prud'homme family moved in and out of the Cottage. Repairs were in order by the spring of 1914, when Edward Carrington Prud'homme, younger brother of P. Phanor Prud'homme, remarked in his diary that he was "covering kitchen, Old House (Leveques) where I now reside."¹²² This would have been the earlier, detached kitchen that has since been removed. The tongue- and- groove bead board that covers the walls and ceiling of Room 106 and the ceiling of Room 109 was probably installed before 1925. It doubtless pre- dates the bathroom addition of the late 1920s, as evidenced by indications of a window

¹¹⁷ Vincent, 2002.

¹¹⁸ Stallings, p. 9.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Malone, p. 136.

¹²¹ Stallings, p. 25.

¹²² Malone, p. 136.

originally in the south wall of the older part of the Room 106 that has since been covered with bead board to match that on the rest of the walls. Bead board installed in Room 105 was installed at a different (probably later) date than that in Room 106; it does not match the dimensions of the bead board in Room 106.

Bathroom Addition (1925)

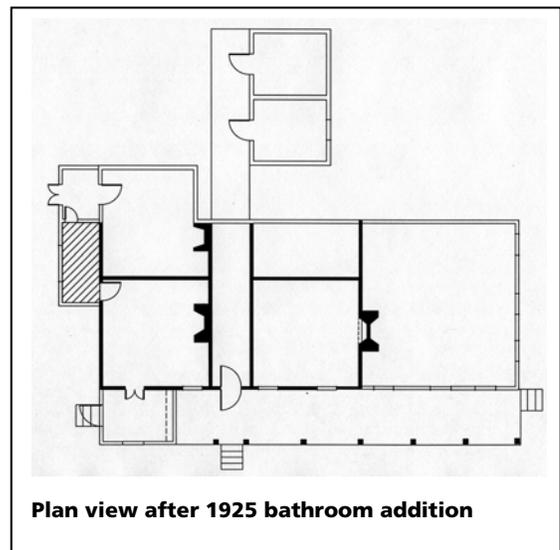
It was apparently more than ten years before any other major renovations were made to the house. By that time, it was occupied by another set of newlyweds, Elise Elizabeth Prud'homme, grand-daughter of Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme, and her husband, Wilbur Guy Cloutier, who married June 10, 1925.¹²³ The Cloutiers added a modern amenity to the house by building a bathroom (Room 108) on the south side.¹²⁴ Though Stallings asserts that the Guy Cloutiers built both the bathroom and the utility closet,¹²⁵ the foundation and framing of the bathroom contradict this statement. The joists of the bathroom are smaller than those of the adjoining utility room, and are supported independently. It is more probable that it was the Cloutiers who enclosed an earlier back porch to create what is now the utility closet and provide access to the bathroom from Room 106. A door from this room opened to the south, and wooden stairs descended from it to the yard.¹²⁶

The Cloutiers ran water lines to the bathroom facility, but a water heater was not installed until more than 20 years later.¹²⁷ Arnold Cloutier, who was born in the house, stated that his father used a French door turned on its side to create the pivoting window in the bathroom.¹²⁸

Guy Cloutier completed the construction of his own house in 1934 and moved into it with his family.¹²⁹ About 1935, Adele Prud'homme

Brett and her husband, Jesse Emmett Brett, moved into the Cottage,¹³⁰ and, in 1941, the Bretts purchased it from the Prud'hommes.¹³¹ It may have been the Bretts who first added electricity to the Cottage. They were also the first to install cooking facilities in Room 106. Doris Brett Vincent remembers that the detached kitchen was in use when she was very small. She enjoyed "helping" the cook wash the dishes in large dishpans of water heated on the wood-burning stove. In the early 1940s, the kitchen was moved to Room 106, and Room 109 was used as a dining room.¹³² She remembered a wood-burning stove in front of the fireplace in Room 106, probably vented through the chimney. She also remembers her father heating milk for her on the pot-bellied stove in the bedroom she shared with her parents between 1936 and 1948, the 1880 addition,¹³³ so it appears that all of the fireplaces, with the possible exception

of the one in Room 102, had, at one time or another, if not simultaneously, wood-burning stoves installed in front of them with chimneys vented up the existing fireplace chimneys. About 1944, the Bretts removed the pot-bellied stove in the 1880 addition and replaced it with a butane heater to provide heat for the room. In 1946, there was great excitement in



¹²³ Prud'homme, p. 24.

¹²⁴ Stallings, p. 26.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ Vincent, 2002.

¹²⁷ Cloutier, Oct 2001.

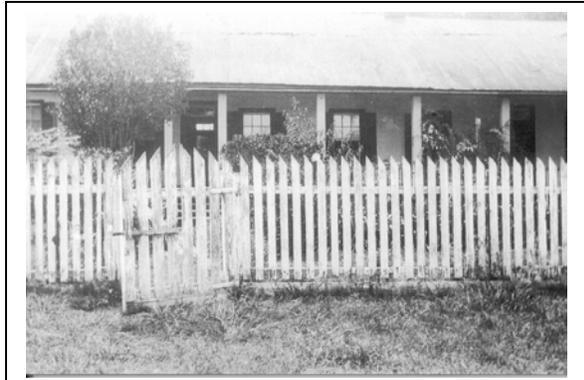
¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Stallings, p. 27.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Vincent, 2002.



**1938 Photo of Cottage with picket fence
(Photo courtesy of Doris Brett Vincent)**

the family when the Bretts bought their first electric refrigerator and installed it in the dining room, Room 109, east of the fireplace.

Between 1936 and 1948, Doris slept in the portion that is now Room 104, and her parents slept in the portion that is now Room 103.¹³³ Room 105, designated by Stallings as a bedroom,¹³⁵ was actually called “the back hall” and used only occasionally as a spare bedroom.¹³⁶ Before Doris was born in 1936, the Bretts usually did not use the two southern rooms (Rooms 106 and 109); they rented each of them out to teachers who were related to Adele, also a teacher.¹³⁷ After Doris was born, it appears they abandoned this practice. Vivian Duggan recalled playing with Doris in the Doctor’s office under the stern admonition of Adele to “be careful of the glass walls,”¹³⁸ indicating that, before 1948, the shelves that Doctor Leveque built were still intact, though Doris says that, by that time, the glass in the doors, which was very thin, was broken, and the admonition was that they were not to cut themselves on it!¹³⁹

A photograph of the Cottage taken in 1938 shows that part of the front yard was surrounded by a picket fence resembling the one in front of the Main House and that the

roof was, at that time, corrugated metal on the earlier portion of the Cottage and V-groove over the 1880 addition. Tommy Jones, of the National Park Service, indicates that the V-groove roof was probably original to the addition, and the corrugated metal was added later to replace a wood shingle roof over the earlier part of the Cottage.¹⁴⁰ Doris Brett Vincent recalled that, by the mid- 1950s, the roof over the 1880 addition had deteriorated to the point that, when it rained, it was necessary to scatter pans around the room (Rooms 103 and 104), to catch the water coming through the roof.¹⁴¹

Arnold Cloutier, who lived in the house as a boy in the early 1930s, remembered that, within the picket fence around the front of the house, were formal gardens similar to the ones at the Main House, with brick walkways edged with bricks as well as with rocks collected over time from the Kisatchie forest.¹⁴² Doris Brett Vincent could remember the layout of the garden walkways and the flowers that populated the area.¹⁴³ To the east of the picket fence, between the fence and the road, ran a wagon- path of hard- packed dirt. It wound from a gate in the southeast corner of the yard, facing the bridge, at an angle across the yard, to the northeast corner of the picket fence, turned west past the house and garage, and then south to the barn in the back yard.¹⁴⁴ A portion of this wagon track can be seen in the 1957 photo of the Cottage on page 42. Arnold also recalled that there was a root cellar beneath the house at the back.¹⁴⁵ Doris Brett Vincent remembered the root cellar, but said it was just a large bowl- like depression, about 2’ deep, where she liked to crawl in with the dogs to cool off in the summer.¹⁴⁶ A depression such as she describes still exists below the house to the southwest of the fireplace between the original house and the 1880 addition. Though Arnold described it as a “root cellar,” Doris

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ Stallings, p. 27.

¹³⁶ Vincent, 2002.

¹³⁷ Ibid and Cloutier, Oct 2001.

¹³⁸ Duggan, Oct 2001.

¹³⁹ Vincent, 2002.

¹⁴⁰ Tommy Jones, NPS, to Deborah Harvey, 10 Jan 2002.

¹⁴¹ Vincent, 2002.

¹⁴² Cloutier, Oct 2001.

¹⁴³ Vincent, 2002.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

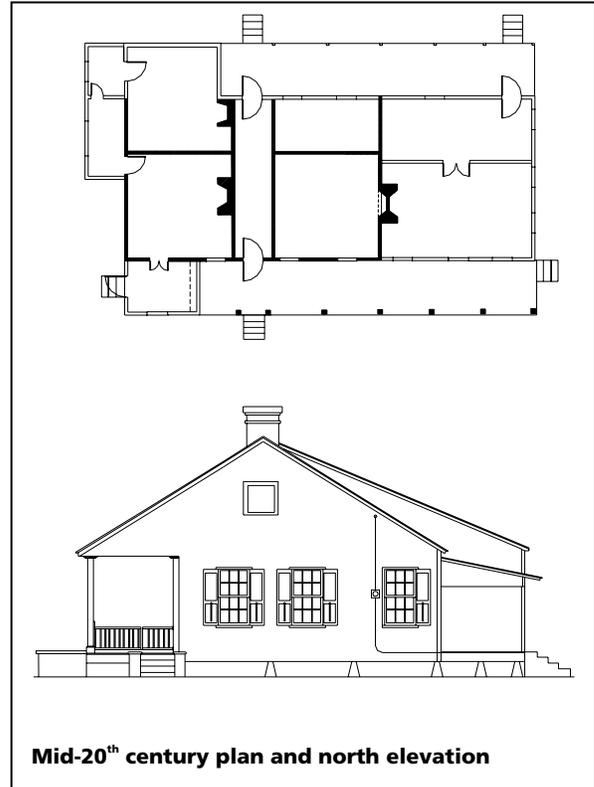
¹⁴⁵ Cloutier, Oct 2001.

¹⁴⁶ Vincent, 2002.

says the Bretts did not use for this purpose because it filled with water when it rained.¹⁴⁷

In 1951, Arnold Cloutier, son of Guy and Lise Cloutier, received permission from the Bretts to remodel the house for himself and his bride, Virginia LeMeur, to inhabit. Arnold spent nearly a year on the renovations.¹⁴⁸ The account of Arnold and Virginia Cloutier regarding their renovations is somewhat at variance with that of Stallings,¹⁴⁹ who based her account on the recollections of Doris Brett Vincent. According to Arnold and Virginia, their renovations included the installation of hot water lines and a water heater (probably in Room 107), the house previously having only cold running water.¹⁵⁰ Arnold stated that he closed up the outside entrance to the Doctor's office, Room 110, turning it into a window,¹⁵¹ but Doris Brett Vincent said that her father closed up the door and created the window.¹⁵² Arnold added a wall in the Doctor's office, making the shelved area into a closet (Room III).¹⁵³

What became of the original shelving is uncertain, though it may have remained in place until 1957, when Jesse Brett used the shelves to create new storage shelves for his daughter, Doris.¹⁵⁴ These shelves still remain and are located on the south wall of Room III to the left of the door as one enters the closet. Doris Brett Vincent believes that the original doors to the cabinets were removed at this time and stored in the barn.¹⁵⁵ Arnold and Virginia updated the kitchen in Room 106, purchasing the most modern sink then on the market, but, when they moved, they removed the sink and gave it to Arnold's mother for her kitchen.¹⁵⁶ Arnold also stated that he installed the gas lines and gas heaters in most of the formerly wood-burning fireplaces, though they did not add the mortar to fill the



fireplaces.¹⁵⁷ They did not install gas-heat in the firebox in the 1880 addition; it had already been installed by the Bretts. They did not use this room in any case because Adele was still using it for storage, since the move to Texas was intended to be temporary.¹⁵⁸ However, Doris stated that her father installed the gas heaters, and specifically mentioned one in the bathroom that was used to heat water for bathing.¹⁵⁹ It is possible that Jesse Brett installed the butane heaters in the bathroom and the 1880 addition, and Arnold Cloutier installed the rest. Arnold also painted the interior of the house.¹⁶⁰ Arnold demolished the detached kitchen, first trying to knock it over with his tractor, and then, finding that it wouldn't budge, disassembling it.¹⁶¹

After all this work, Arnold and Virginia were finally ready to move into the house. A week before the move, Arnold discovered that the walls of the 1880 addition on the north were

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Cloutier, Oct 2001.

¹⁴⁹ Stallings, pp. 26-27.

¹⁵⁰ Cloutier, Oct. 2001.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² Vincent, 2002.

¹⁵³ Cloutier, Oct. 2001.

¹⁵⁴ Vincent, 2002.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ Cloutier, Oct 2001.

¹⁵⁷ Ibid.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹⁵⁹ Vincent, 2002.

¹⁶⁰ Vincent, 2002, and Duggan, Oct 2001.

¹⁶¹ Cloutier, Oct 2001.

filled with a huge colony of honeybees. Summoning a friend for help, the two calmed the bees. The following day, they carefully removed the siding to expose the honeycomb beneath. Virginia stated that the amount of honey and comb retrieved filled three #3 tubs. Friends and relatives, hearing of the find, came from miles around with jars and containers to relieve the Cloutiers of their sweet burden, for which Virginia was very grateful, having no way to use that much honey. Arnold remembered that he was stung three times in the effort to remove the honey from the walls.¹⁶² Doris Vincent recalled that they often had bees in the walls of that addition.¹⁶³ This phenomenon may explain the absence of the *bousillage* in the west wall of Room 105. It may have been removed in an attempt to mitigate another insect infestation.

Three months after Arnold and Virginia moved into the cottage, they moved out again, in December of 1951, having found another house in which to live.¹⁶⁴ The house remained vacant for about a year until J. Alphonse Prud'homme and his wife, Martha Jane Allen Prud'homme, moved into it in 1954.¹⁶⁵ The Prud'hommes rented the house until the Bretts returned from Texas in 1956 to retake possession. Alphonse and Jane moved the kitchen from Room 106 to the small hall behind the living room (Room 105).¹⁶⁶ Arnold

Cloutier stated that the linoleum on the floors of Room 105 and in the hall (Room 101) was installed by Alphonse and Jane. Arnold recalled that, when he was living in the house, it was possible to see the ground below the house through cracks between the 11" wide floorboards in the hall.¹⁶⁷ According to Doris Brett Vincent, the floors in the bedrooms (Rooms 106 and 109) and in the living room (Room 102) were covered only with large area rugs, and, what with no insulation below the floors, the rooms could be a bit "drafty" on cold, winter days.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ Vincent, 2002.

¹⁶⁴ Cloutier, Oct 2001.

¹⁶⁵ Ibid, and Duggan, Oct 2001.

¹⁶⁶ Cloutier, Oct 2001.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ Vincent, 2002.

In 1957, the Bretts set about making renovations and improvements, the last of the identified significant sets of modifications. It is this set of modifications that forms much of the appearance of the Cottage that is evident today. "Paul Cardino & crew from Natchitoches" were hired to assist in the renovations.¹⁶⁹ As part of these modifications, they attempted to level the house, which was decidedly tilted, and to eliminate a deep "V" groove that had developed at the threshold of the door between the living room (Room 102) and the kitchen (Room 105). The attempts to level the house were unsuccessful, for, when they raised the house in one place, it tilted in another, the result of the bowing of the ancient 8x9 beam that supported the house in that location. Eventually, they settled for leveling the floors as much as possible rather than trying to level the support beam.¹⁷⁰

Mid- 20th - Century Modernization

The Bretts removed the existing closet in the 1880 addition and divided it into two rooms, a family room (Room 103) on the east side and a dining room (Room 104) on the west side. In addition, they installed a doorway with a pair of French doors between Room 103 and Room 102.¹⁷¹ They closed up the door from the outside to the utility room (107), converting it to a window and removing the exterior steps. They installed "modern" glass panes in the new window in Room 107 and in the window on the south side of Room 110.¹⁷² They in-filled the fireplaces with mortar.¹⁷³ Using the shelving from the Doctor's cabinet, Jesse Brett created shelving in Room 111 for his daughter, Doris, who used it as storage for bed linens, scarves, and sweaters.¹⁷⁴ He also removed the door that had existed between Rooms 109 and 110 and replaced it with the current half-glassed French doors. Half-inch gypsum wallboard, a sheet material that was then replacing plaster as a modern finish material, was installed over what appears, from

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ Vincent, 2002.

¹⁷¹ Stallings, p. 27.

¹⁷² Vincent, 2002.

¹⁷³ Stallings, p. 27.

¹⁷⁴ Vincent, 2002.



**House after 1957 renovation
(Photo courtesy of Doris Brett Vincent and Sandra Prud'homme Haynie)**

sampling, to be wood wall and ceiling boards on the walls and ceilings of Rooms 101, 102, 103, 104, 110, and III. It appears that they nearly rebuilt the front porch. Because the Cottage had never had gutters, the edges of the floorboards of the front porch had rotted. The floorboards were removed and replaced, and they replaced wooden exterior porch steps on the front gallery with concrete stairs and brick stair walls. The Bretts added a back porch that extended from the north side of the extended southwest room (106) to the north end of the 1880 addition, thus providing covered entry to both the new dining room (Room 104) and the hall (Room 101). The floorboards used for this porch were salvaged from the boards that had been removed from the front porch. The rotted ends were cut off and the old boards attached to the new porch framing.¹⁷⁵ This is a typical example of how materials from another structure or part of a structure were re-used, if at all possible, rather than discarded. This habit of reusing older

materials in new construction has complicated the determination of dates of construction for various features of the Cottage, but has also served to preserve materials and methods that would otherwise have been lost.

The Bretts covered the majority of the earlier lapped siding exterior of the house in rigid asbestos shingle siding.¹⁷⁶ However, walls protected by the porch roofs were not covered with the asbestos shingles; the horizontal board siding remains exposed. It is likely that, at this time, two of the chimneys (the chimneys in room 106 and 109) were removed. The entire house was re-roofed with asphalt shingles.¹⁷⁷ It is believed that at least some, if not most, of the house was re-wired at this time as well. According to Doris Brett Vincent, the garage, which was torn down earlier by her father, was not replaced in the 1957 upgrade, but later in the life of the house.¹⁷⁸ By 1957, the picket fence and garden

¹⁷⁵ Vincent, 2002.

¹⁷⁶ Stallings, p. 27.

¹⁷⁷ Vincent, 2002.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

with brick walks had also disappeared. The north cistern was still in existence until some time between 1984 and 1994. It was topped with an old plantation bell inherited by Jesse Brett and attached to two huge timbers.¹⁷⁹ However, photographs of the house in 1957 do not show this construction, so it must have been installed later. Though these modifications significantly altered the earlier character of the house, with the exception of the perceived functional value of the exterior asbestos tile siding and, perhaps, the loss of the garage, the majority of the 1957 modifications were generally cosmetic in nature.

Today, the Cottage appears much as it did after the renovations of 1957. At some point,

probably in the 1980s, the light-colored asphalt shingle roof installed in 1957 was replaced with a dark asphalt shingle roof. To date, the National Park Service has embarked on only the priority construction activities necessary to prevent further deterioration of existing structures and resources. It is quite remarkable that this house, so simple in construction methods and materials, has managed to survive flood, fire, war and generations of inhabitants. From about 1835 to 1998, the house was home to at least twelve families, only two or three of which were not related to the Prud'hommes. In itself, this makes the Cottage a significant contribution to the understanding of the lives of the Prud'hommes and the development of Oakland Plantation.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

This section contains the results of a careful evaluation of the Cottage to identify its earliest characteristics and those of progressive modifications that render the present character, features, room configurations and relationships. The information used in constructing the following description is based in large part on a Conditions Assessment prepared by Hartrampf, Inc and the Office of Jack Pyburn, Architect, Inc. in the fall of 2000 and on- site investigation conducted in the fall of 2001 by Jack Pyburn, AIA, Historic Preservation Architect, Deborah Harvey, Historian with Hartrampf, Inc. and Tommy Jones, Architectural Historian with the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service.

The Cottage is a one- story wood framed structure set on brick and concrete (not original) piers and measuring approximately 60'- 8 1/2" by 40'- 9 1/2", approximately 2,525 square feet including the front and rear open galleries. The primary components of the structure include a front and rear gallery, 10 distinct rooms, and all or part of three fireplaces. Today, the gable roof extends the full length of the building with a change in pitch over the southwest quadrant of the house (Room 106). A *cabinet*- like enclosure of the south end of the front gallery has created a small room that is purported to have been used as a doctor's office. In the southwest corner of the house, either a rear *cabinet* was extended or an open back gallery extended and enclosed to create what today is Room 106. The existing rear porch was constructed well after the Room 106 expansion, in the 1950s. There is no evidence that the existing rear porch ever extended the full length of the rear of the house. Overall, the structure is in sound and stable condition with only localized structural deficiencies resulting from inadequate original member sizing, inadequate joining and/or insect damage. The house is currently vacant, but has been used for storage at times and was last occupied as a residence in 1997.

Summary of Historic Character

At least six major phases in the structure's evolution that were identified during the course of the investigation and research for this report. It is probable that the earliest phase(s) were not completely identified and documented herein, as there remain unexplained clues associated with the earliest identified phase. They include the timing and characteristics of the north hall wall, and the characteristics of the flooring in room 109. However, the primary characteristics of the later phases of change appear to have been substantially determined.

Consistent with the other buildings located at Oakland Plantation, the Cottage reflects the simple design and construction techniques common in Louisiana vernacular architecture of the 18th and 19th centuries, including significant remnants of a traditional Creole cottage. Although the building received a number of modifications and additions over the years, vernacular characteristics are still evident. The most notable characteristic, hand- hewn logs joined together with mortise- and- tenon and dovetail joints, support most of what is believed to be the earliest part of the structure. Several of the beams in the attic display signs of white paint and remnants of wallpaper, suggesting that materials were reused from other structures to construct parts of this structure. Holes without pegs and open dovetail joints further suggest the likelihood that recycled materials were used in the construction and modification of the house. In the older part of the house, above rooms 101, 102, 105 and 109, markings placed in the typical French- influenced way on the hand- hewn beams, identifying the placement of the members in the structure, can be seen.

The basic structure is a typical Creole cottage consisting of rooms 101, 102 and 109. With the exception of the north wall of the center hall, the interior configuration of the earliest

structure is substantially consistent with the typical Creole cottage floor plan. The creation of Room 106 by either the expansion of a back gallery *cabinet* to the west or the expansion and enclosure and expansion of the southwest part of an open rear gallery had a dramatic effect on the overall character of the cottage. The hip roof was converted to support the new and lower pitch roof slope required to roof what is now Room 106. The creation of the doctor's office enclosed the south portion of the front gallery. In 1880, the size of the house was increased significantly with the approximately 23' extension to the north to accommodate Lucie Leveque, her husband and later, their child. The addition retained the basic character of the earlier, gabled cottage while adding features to unify the appearance, such as boxing in the front columns of the earlier cottage to produce a consistent column type and changing the railing from a two rail railing design of the earlier cottage to a style more in vogue, a picket railing. In the 1920s, plumbing was added to the house with the addition of the south bathroom and the enclosure of the small adjacent south porch. Subsequent changes to the house included the change in roofing material in the earliest cottage from wood shingles to metal and then composition shingles in the 20th century, the addition of drywall to portions of the interior, and the addition of a rear porch in the late 1950s

Associated Site Features

The Cottage complex evolved as both a freestanding compound and an integral part of the larger Prud'homme plantation complex. Consequently, the complex includes a series of improvements and structures that supported the cottage. The improvements and structures include:



Cisterns: There are two cisterns currently located at the building, one on the south end of the building and one

on the northwest end of the building. Both cisterns appear to be constructed of brick and are approximately 3' - 4" square and rise generally 6" above grade. The northwest cistern appears to be circular on the inside, possibly constructed of concrete or 'plastered' on the inside with concrete. The southern cistern has a square concrete cover. The cover on the western cistern, if there was one, is missing. Oral history indicates that a third cistern, now filled and dismantled, was located at the north side of the house. A fourth cistern is located behind the garage.

Several outbuildings are associated with the site.

Barn: The barn, constructed circa 1870, has overall dimensions of 20'2" x 25'7", exclusive of the shelter attached to three sides. The structure is of heavy-timber construction with board and batten siding. The barn has been rehabilitated by the National Park Service and currently serves as a shop and storage area for the maintenance staff.



Two-Hole Privy: The privy's overall dimensions are 6' x 5' - 6". The construction date for the privy is unknown. This structure is a poteaux-sur-solle (post on sills) framing type and possesses an interesting "V"

design for the stools that have been retained in the rehabilitation. The National Park Service rehabilitated the structure in 1999.

Grist Mill: The gristmill, also a poteaux- sur-solle structure, has overall dimensions of 14'-5" x 11'-2". The construction date is unknown. This structure is wood post and beam construction with rough-cut wood plank sheathing. The mill equipment is still in place in the mill. Other items related to the mill are



still stored in the building. This building is currently in the process of being rehabilitated by the National Park Service.

Chicken Coop: The chicken coop's overall dimensions are 19'-1" x 8'-4" with an 4'-2" x 3'-10" addition. The construction date for the chicken coop is unknown. The structure is poteaux- en- terre (post in ground) construction with varying sizes of rough-cut boards used for the walls. It is likely that most of the material used in the construction of this structure was reused from some other



structure on the plantation. The structure is in a state of deterioration and was partially stabilized by the National Park Service in Fall

2000.

Garage: To the north of the house is a one-vehicle pole in the ground structure sheathed in corrugated metal. A garage has been documented in photographs to have existed as early as the 1930s, but, according to Doris Brett



Vincent, that garage was torn down before 1956 and replaced with the current structure. She is unsure of the

date of construction of the current garage, but said that the Bretts did not have a garage for a "few years" after they returned from Texas in 1956, and that her father may have reused materials from the earlier garage to construct the existing one.¹⁸⁰ This structure was not included in the previous condition assessment of the complex.

Foundation

Brick piers and concrete pylons support the structure. Piers are generally about 17" x 14". Precast concrete pylons were used to replace deteriorated brick piers and/or supplement earlier foundation support in certain areas, most notably on the northwest corner of the building, the area of the 1880 addition. The concrete pylons were installed in 1998 and 1999.

Many of the remaining brick piers are in various stages of deterioration, specifically in the mortar joints. It is likely that the earlier piers have no sub-grade foundation component to their assembly. In some cases, wood blocking has been inserted into exposed masonry joints to help stabilize the piers. Wood blocking between the wood beams and the brick piers were noted at some piers. This type of blocking is typical of construction at the plantation and in the region. Cedar blocking, generally the thickness of a masonry unit, was inserted between the brick and the beams to prevent



¹⁸⁰ Vincent, 2002.

wicking of moisture from the ground through the bricks and into the beams. The small wood blocks were more easily replaced when deteriorated than the large framing beams holding up the house.

Structural System

The structural system is wood frame on masonry piers, the remaining early brick masonry piers, and recent- vintage pyramidal precast concrete piers. The characteristics of the structural system, materials, framing and connections, are distinctly different in each identified addition or modification.



The likely oldest identified part of the house is timber frame using hand-hewn structural members and

pegged mortise- and- tenon and dovetail joints. This structural assembly appears to coincide with the areas of *bousillage* found in the walls of the older part of the building. The floor plans produced by Hartrampf, Inc. and the Office of Jack Pyburn, Architect for the Conditions Assessment Report for this structure indicate sizes of structural members in the floor, ceiling and roof systems. The members in the walls were not exposed during the investigation for this report.

The addition to the north of the older timber frame section appears to be sawn timber frame as well, but little of the structure in this area was exposed which hampered a definitive determination of the structural characteristics of the walls in this part of the house. This 1880 addition consists of circular- sawn timber members as indicated by the exposed structural members in the attic and crawl space. The roof rafters in this area are nailed with cut nails.



Like the timber characteristics in the attic, the floor framing reveals considerable information, though not altogether conclusive, on the evolution of the structure and,

thus, the house. In fact, there are characteristics in the floor framing that are not consistent with the characteristics in the roof framing. Two primary areas are in the southwest bedroom and at the south end of the rear porch. In the case of the bedroom, the floor framing is complex and incongruous with both the interior floor plan and roof framing, which is more straightforward and consistent in its layout. On the earlier rear porch, now enclosed as a part of the kitchen, hall, and rear bedroom, the floor framing is substantially uniform, while there is a *bousillage* wall extending across part of the rear porch at the existing rear door. In this same area, the roof and ceiling framing is quite complex, revealing, in part, modifications associated with the reframing of the southwest roof.

Roof

Evidence in the attic indicates that the building at one time had a hipp roof, probably covered with wood shingles. The wood nailing strips to support wood roofing remain under the existing plywood decking. In the 19th century, the roof configuration was changed to a gable end roof covered first in wood shingles, then with corrugated metal over the older, south part of the house. A V- groove (12" on center) galvanized metal roof probably

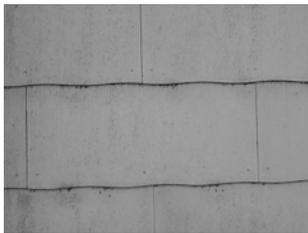


was original to the north addition. Asphalt shingles were installed as a part of the 1957 renovations. The existing roof was installed more recently. The existing roofing tabs have an exposure of approximately 7" with an approximately 12" wide tab.

The slope on the largest portion of the roof is 7 1/2" per foot on the front and the rear. The existing 7 1/2"/foot pitch appears to be the earlier pitch of the front and back slope of the Creole cottage. A change in the roof slope to 5"/foot occurs at the rear southwest bedroom (106). The south bathroom (108) addition has a shed- type roof sloping down to the south at a pitch of 5- 3/8" per foot.

Exterior Siding

The majority of the exterior is finished with a vertically striated composite asbestos shingle with an exposure of 10 1/2" x 24" and a reverse curved bottom edge. The walls on the front and rear porch are finished with wood lap siding with a 5" exposure. It is expected that the asbestos shingle siding is installed over siding similar to that exposed



under the porch roofs. The addition of the asbestos siding was made during the 1957 renovations. Overall, the asbestos siding is in sound condition.

Front Gallery

The current front gallery consists of two parts: the earliest section and an addition on the north; the division is noted by the occurrence of a ceiling beam dividing the two sections and a change in the size of the ceiling boards. Additionally, the earlier section of the porch is framed on 6" x 8" beams and 3" x 8" joists. The addition is framed on 6" x 6" beams and 3" x 8" joists.



The gallery is supported by seven 8" x 9" columns with two- part molding trim at the top, creating capitals, and simple 1x plinth trim at the bottom. Investigation reveals earlier columns encased within these square columns on the main section of the gallery. The original columns are of sawn wood with chamfered edges and a square base. Notches in these earlier columns indicate the previous existence of two horizontal rails, presumably wood, that probably comprised the front porch railing.



Rear Gallery

Oral history places the construction of the rear gallery as part of the 1957 renovation. The gallery is framed on 4" x 4" beams and a mix of joists measurements: 2" x 4", 3" x 4", 4" x 4", 2" x 5", 5" x 4", 4" x 5". The variety of sizes of framing material suggest that the gallery was constructed of at least some material salvaged from elsewhere rather than



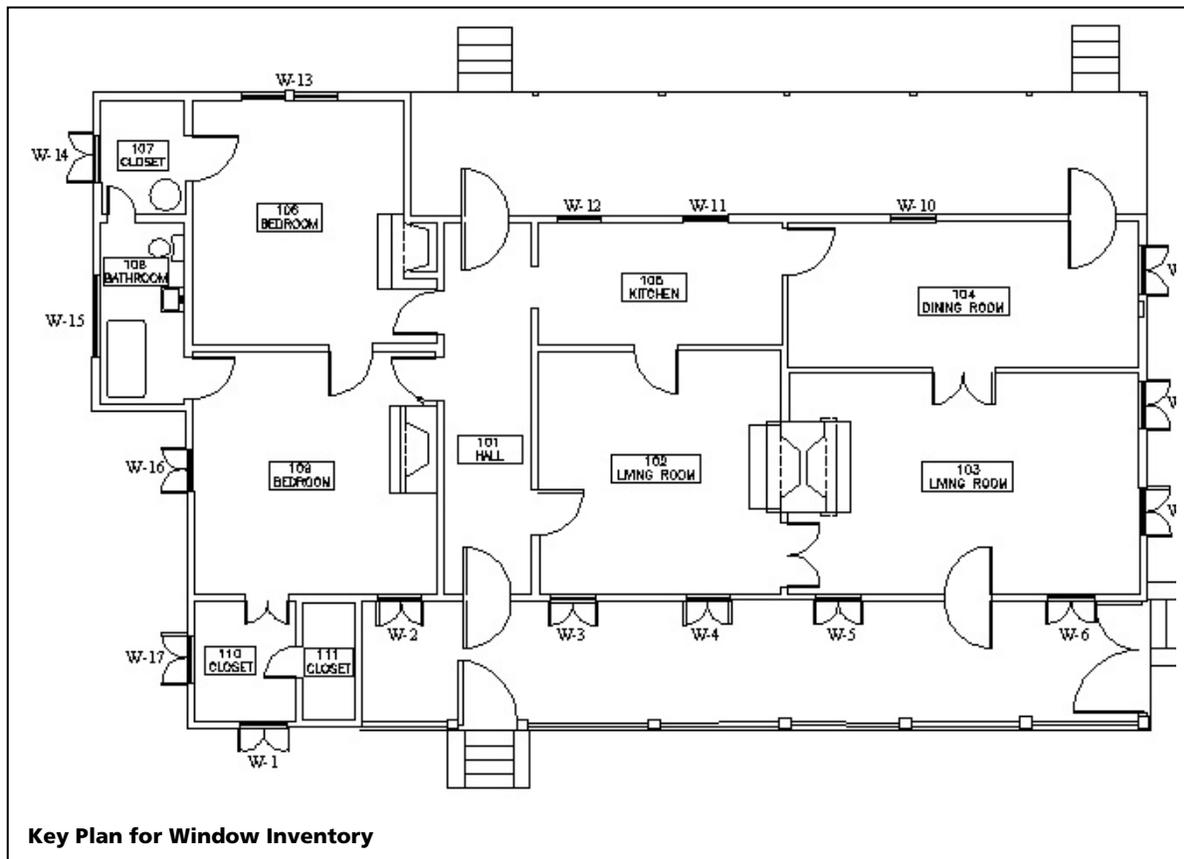
new, standard- dimensioned wood. The gallery roof is supported by six 3" x 4" posts. The ceiling of the gallery is the exposed underside of the butt jointed roof decking above. The flooring is tongue- and- groove planks measuring 4 1/4". The National Park Service repaired the gallery floor and ceiling framing and roof in 1999/2000.

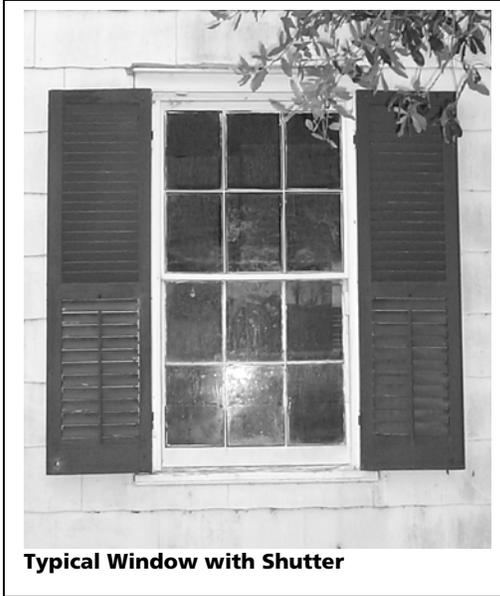
Windows

The following inventory of window characteristics is keyed to the floor plan above.

The windows are generally consistent in size and configuration, with a couple of exceptions noted below. The typical window is wood, double- hung, with a fixed upper sash, and 6/6 lights measuring 1' x 9 1/2". Each window, with the exception of the four rear windows and the bathroom window, is fitted with exterior louvered shutters. The shutters measure 1'- 5 1/4" x 5'- 4" with 2" slats; only the lower portion is operable. The majority of the windows have had temporary ventilating grills inserted in them by the National Park Service to provide natural air circulation in the building during this vacant period.

- W- 1 Sash is 2'- 7 1/2" x 5'- 2", 6/6; typical exterior shutter.
- W- 2 Sash is 2'- 8" x 5'- 2", 6/6; typical exterior shutter.
- W- 3 Sash is 2'- 8" x 5'- 2", 6/6; typical





exterior shutter.

W- 4 Sash is 2'- 8" x 5'- 2", 6/6; typical exterior shutter.

W- 5 Sash is 2'- 8" x 5'- 2", 6/6; typical exterior shutter.

W- 6 Sash is 2'- 8" x 5'- 2", 6/6; typical exterior shutter.

W- 7 Sash is 2'- 8" x 5'- 2", 6/6; typical exterior shutter; contains wood support latch on the exterior; no ventilation louvers installed.

W- 8 Sash is 2'- 8" x 5'- 2", 6/6; typical exterior shutter; one side of the operable portion of the shutter no longer works.

W- 9 Sash is 2'- 8" x 5'- 2", typical exterior

shutter only on one side with hinges still existing for missing shutter.

W- 10 Sash is 2'- 8" x 5'- 2", no shutter.

W- 11 Sash is 2'- 8" x 5'- 2", no shutter, two cracks evident in two of the lights.

W- 12 Sash is 2'- 8" x 5'- 2", no shutter, crack evident in one of the lights.

W- 13 Sash is 2'- 10" x 5'- 2", pair of windows separated by a 5 1/2" mullion.

W- 14 Sash is 2'- 9" x 5'- 2", typical exterior shutter, contains wood support latch on exterior, top sash nailed into place.

W- 15 Sash is 1'- 5" x 5", horizontal 6/6 ribbon window pivoting in the center; lights measure 8 1/2" x 6 1/2" with one crack evident; unit has been nailed so that it only pivots approximately two inches; a projecting box screen covers the window while still allowing it to be opened.

W- 16 Sash is 2'- 8" x 5'- 2"; typ. ext. shutter.

W- 17 Sash is 2'- 10" x 5'- 2"; typical exterior shutter; lower sash is broken and the top sash has been nailed shut.

Interior Materials, Finishes and Characteristics

The interior finish of the cottage is basically simple made complex by the number of changes and modifications that have taken place over time. To assist in clearly communicating the characteristics of each room, a schedule of existing finish

Room No.	Floor/ Direction	Ceiling	Wall				Base				Crown Molding				Light Fixture
			S	E	N	W	S	E	N	W	S	E	N	W	
101	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
102	2/NS	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
103	2/NS	I	I	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	I	I	I	I	I
104	2/NS	2	I	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	I	I	I	I	I
105	I	3	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	2	2	2	2	3
106	2/EW	4	7/8	8	7/8	7	6	6	6	6	see plan`				4
107	3/EW	5	9	9	9	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	7	8	5
108	3/NS	3	10	10	10	10	8	8	8	8	none				2/6
109	4/NS	4	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	9	4	4	3/4	4	7
110	2/EW	I	4	4	4	2	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	9	8
111	2/EW	6	4	4	4	2	11	11	11	11	none				8

Schedule of Existing Finish Characteristics

characteristics is presented here along with a legend that begins below and presents each finish characteristic identified. The schedule is then supplemented by narrative descriptions of each room to communicate further any characteristics or facts unique to that room.

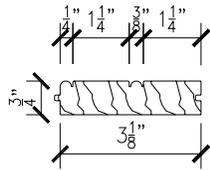
Legend

Flooring Types

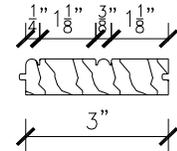
1. Cream colored with 4½" x 4½" simulated-tile patterned sheet vinyl flooring on ¾" particle board over hardwood tongue- and-groove flooring (dimension not known).
2. 4½" - 5½" random width tongue- and-groove hardwood or pine stained a reddish tint.
3. 3½" cypress running east to west, no finish, section of sheet vinyl in area of water heater.
4. 5"- 10" cypress flooring running north to south, joint at approximately 6' from north wall, sill- like insert at joint.

Ceiling Types

1. ½" gypsum wallboard with stipple paint finish over wood ceiling.
2. ½" gypsum wallboard with stipple paint finish; unsure of wood ceiling condition at sloped ceiling condition.
3. 3¼" tongue- and- groove bead board running east to west, painted.

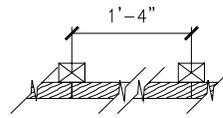


4. 3" tongue- and- groove bead board running north to south, painted.



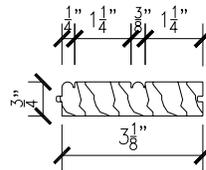
5. 6¼" butt jointed board running north to south painted.

6. 16" butt jointed boards running north/south.

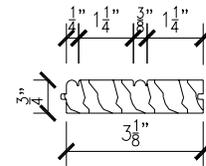


Wall Types

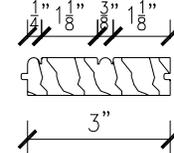
1. ½" gypsum wallboard with stipple paint over board wallboards on *bousillage* wall.
2. ½" gypsum wallboard with stipple paint over wood wallboards.
3. ½" gypsum wallboard on conventional stud wall.
4. ½" gypsum wallboard on wood wallboards on stud or frame construction.
5. 3¼" x ½" tongue- and- groove beaded board painted run horizontal on wood frame *bousillage* construction.



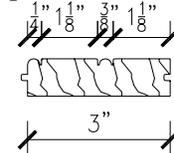
6. 3¼" x ½" tongue- and- groove beaded board painted run horizontal on wood frame.



7. 3" tongue- and- groove beaded board painted, run horizontal on frame construction.



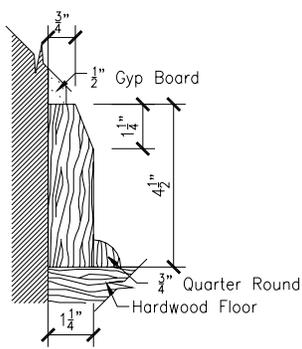
8. 3" tongue- and- groove beaded board painted, run horizontal on *bousillage*.



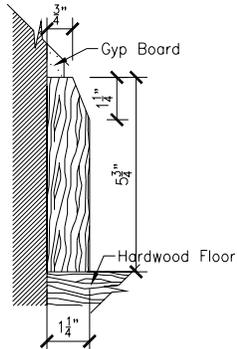
9. 10"- 12" butt jointed boards run horizontal on frame construction, painted.

10. ½" gypsum wallboard above 43", 3" tongue- and- groove wainscoting run vertical below with ¾" wood cap, painted.

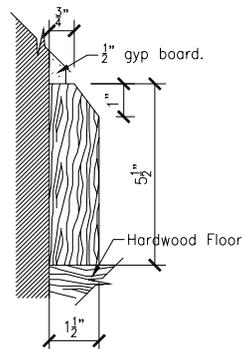
Base Types



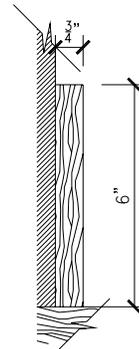
Base 1



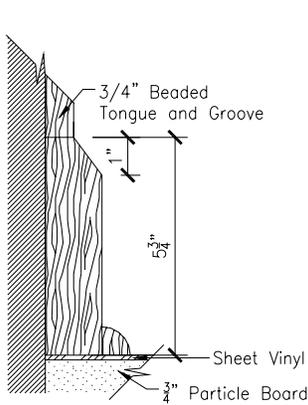
Base 2



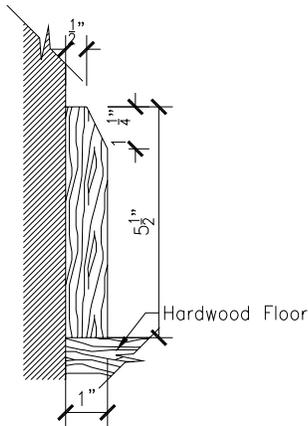
Base 3



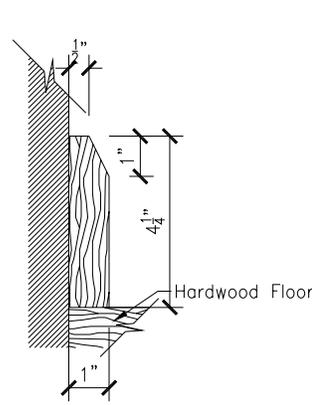
Base 4



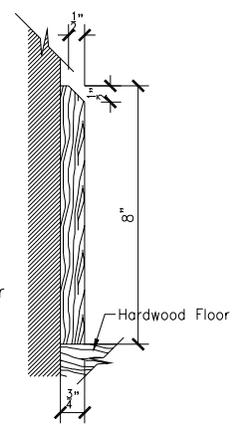
Base 5



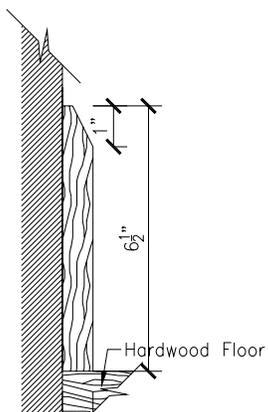
Base 6



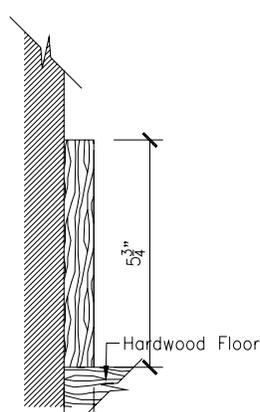
Base 7



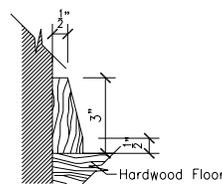
Base 8



Base 9

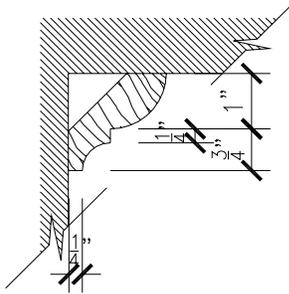


Base 10

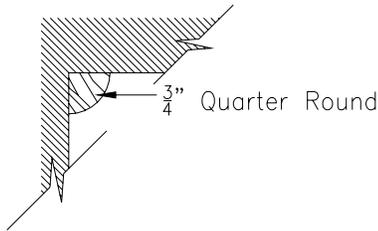


Base 11

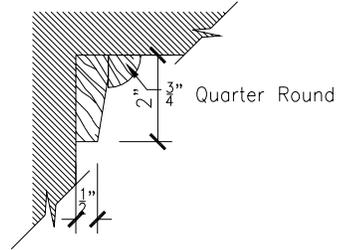
Crown Molding Types



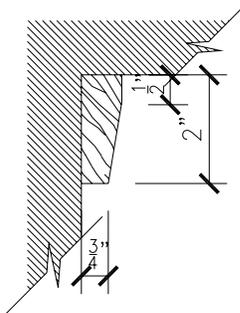
Crown Molding 1



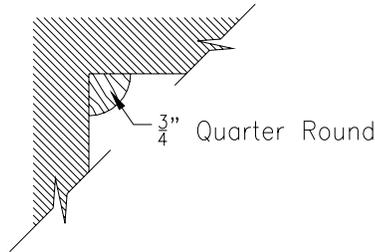
Crown Molding 2



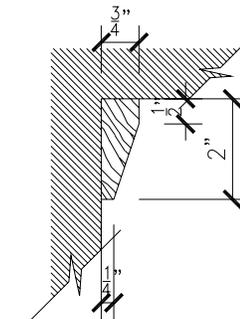
Crown Molding 3



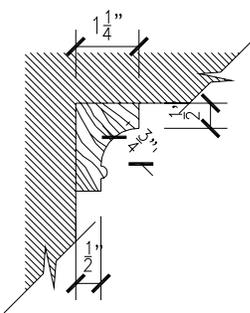
Crown Molding 4



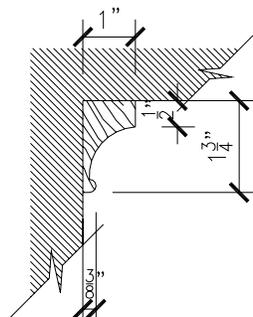
Crown Molding 5



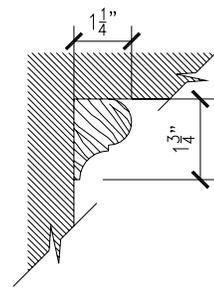
Crown Molding 6



Crown Molding 7



Crown Molding 8



Crown Molding 9

Light Fixture Types

As can be seen from the following photos, the fixtures in the house are typical of mid 20th century style and assembly. One can see some similarity or consistency between fixtures but

a rather broad range from the industrial- type two bulb fluorescent fixture in the kitchen (105) and the pendent fixture in room 104.



Fixture Type 1



Fixture Type 2



Fixture Type 3



Fixture Type 4



Fixture Type 5



Fixture Type 6



Fixture Type 7



Fixture Type 8

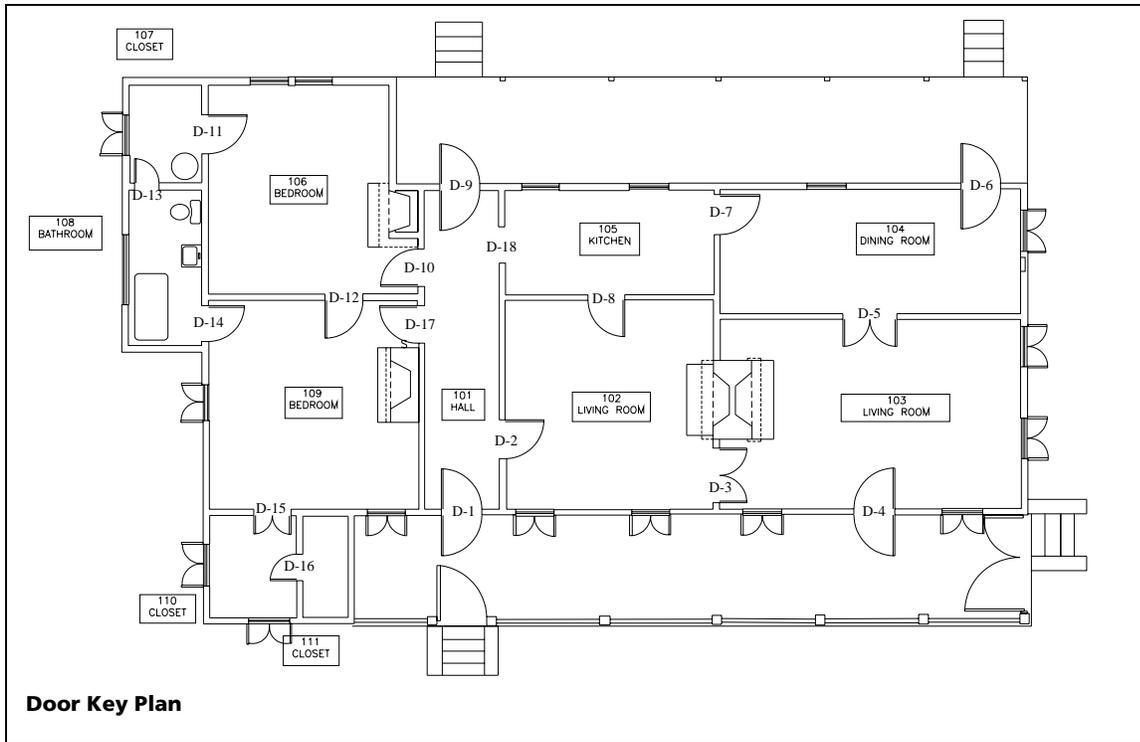
Doors & Door Casings

There are a variety of doors and casing characteristics in the house. To most clearly identify them, each is presented in the following schedule and Legend.

The following schedule and its accompanying legend identify the characteristics of each door

in the Cottage. Except for the rear hall door, Door D- 9, all doors and casings in the house are painted. A preliminary paint analysis was carried out in this report; however, a detailed paint analysis should be performed to identify the appropriate finishes for the established period of significance.

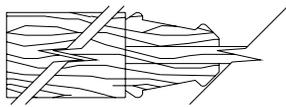
Physical Description



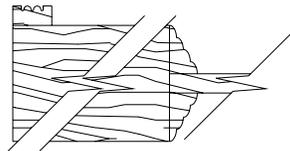
Door Schedule of Existing Characteristics											
Door No.	Width	Height	Thickness	Type	Panels	Stile Width	Door Finish	Panel Profile	Lock Set	Knob Type	
D1	2'- 11"	6'- 9"	1 1/4"	SR w 3PT	4	4 3/4"	Paint	1	M	G	
D2	2'- 11"	6'- 9"	1 1/4"	SR	4	4"	Paint	1	M	G	
D3	4'- 0"	6'- 9"	1 1/2"	SR/FR	two/five	5 1/4"	Paint	2	C	B	
D4	2'- 11"	6'- 11"	1 1/4"	SR	4	5"	Paint	3	M	G	
D5	4'- 0"	6'- 9"	1 1/2"	SR/FR	two/five	5 1/4"	Paint	2	C	B	
D6	2'- 11"	6'- 11"	1 1/4"	SR	4	5"	Paint	3	M	G	
D7	2'- 11"	6'- 11"	1 1/4"	SR	4	5"	Paint	3	M	G	
D8	2'- 8"	6'- 8"	1 1/4"	SR	4	4 1/2"	Paint	4	M	G	
D9	2'- 11"	6'- 9"	1 1/4"	SR w 3PT	4	4 3/4"	Stain	5	M	Blk Resin	
D10	2'- 8"	6'- 9"	1 1/4"	SR	4	4"	Paint	6	R	G	
D11	2'- 11"	6'- 9"	1 1/4"	SR	4	5"	Paint	3	R	G	
D12	2'- 8"	6'- 9"	1 1/4"	SR	4	4 1/8"	Paint	7	R	G	
D13	1'- 9"	6'- 7"	1 1/4"	SR	5*	3 1/2"	Paint	8	Pull	Pull	
D14	2'- 5"	6'- 6"	1 3/8"	SR	5**	4"	Paint	9	R	G	
D15	2'- 8"	6'- 9"	1 3/8"	SR	3***	2 1/2"	Paint	10	R	Red Resin	
D16	2'- 0"	6'- 9"	1 1/4"	SR	2	4 1/2"	Paint	9	Pull	Pull	
D17	2'- 8"	6'- 9"	1 1/4"	SR	4	4 1/8"	Paint	6	R	G	
D18	2'- 8"	6'- 9"	-	No Door	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Legend	
SR	<i>Stile & Rail</i>
SR w3PT	<i>Stile & Rail w/ 3 panel glass transom above</i>
SR/FR	<i>Stile & Rail Pair of French Doors</i>
*	<i>Five Panel Door, 4 glass panels over one raised panel, see detail</i>
**	<i>Five Panel Wood Door</i>
***	<i>Two Glass Panels over one Wood Panel</i>
M	<i>Mortise Lockset</i>
C	<i>Cylindrical Lockset</i>
R	<i>Rim Lockset</i>
Pull	<i>Door Pull Only</i>
G	<i>Glass Knob</i>
B	<i>Brass Knob</i>
BR	<i>Black Resin Knob</i>
RR	<i>Red Resin Knob</i>

Door Stile/Panel Profiles



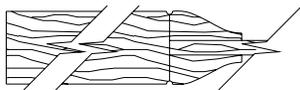
Door Profile 1



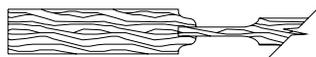
Door Profile 2



Door Profile 3



Door Profile 4



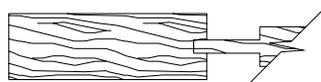
Door Profile 5



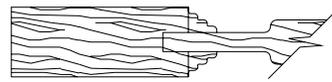
Door Profile 6



Door Profile 7



Door Profile 8



Door Profile 9

Narrative Summary of Door Characteristics

D-1 Opening is 2'-11" x 6'-9"; door is four-panel, mortise- and- tenon construction with a transom containing three lights measuring 10" square; porcelain knob intact; deadbolt added; 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" brass butt hinges that are not original.

D-2 Opening is 2'-11" x 6'-9"; door is four-panel, mortise- and- tenon construction; porcelain knob intact; 3" x 4" butt hinges appear to be original.

D-3 Opening is 4' x 6'-9"; French doors with 10 lights in each door; 3 1/2" x 4" butt hinges have been installed on the jamb and the outside of the door.

D-4 Opening is 2'-11" x 6"-11"; door is four-panel with a transom similar to D-1; white porcelain knob intact; 3 1/2" x 3" butt hinges; notches on door jamb show that earlier hinges existed.

D-5 Opening is 4' x 6'-9"; same characteristics as D-3.

D-6 Opening is 2'-11" x 6'-11"; door is four-panel, mortise- and- tenon construction; 3 1/2" x 3" butt hinges; screen door is installed on outside of door - screen is missing.

D-7 Opening is 2"-11" x 6"-11"; same characteristics as D-6; no transom; 3 1/2" x 3" butt hinges; hook on door jamb but no eye exists on door.

D-8 Opening is 2'-8" x 6'-8"; four-panel door; hook installed on door, and eye installed on doorjamb.

D-9 Opening is 2'-11" x 6'-9"; four-panel door; no mortise- and- tenon construction; transom above, with three 10" x 10" lights; brown mineral knob; latch on inside of door; this is the only door that is not painted but rather stained in a dark walnut color; notches on door jamb indicate earlier hinges existed.

D-10 Opening is 2'-8" x 6'-9"; four-panel door, porcelain knob and applied lockset are not operable; mortise- and- tenon construction; a piece of wood has been added to the top of the door, indicating that the house has settled in this area.

D-11 Opening is 2'-11" x 6'-9"; door is four-panel, mortise- and- tenon construction; rim

lock set with white porcelain knob that is not operable; 3 1/2" x 3" butt hinges; one top panel is split.

D-12 Opening is 2'-8" x 6'-9"; same characteristics as D-10.

D-13 Opening is 1'-9" x 6'-7"; door contains four 1'1" x 11 1/4" lights over one 1'1" x 19 1/2" panel; glass pull knob; slide latch; hook and eye closure; 3" x 3" butt hinges.

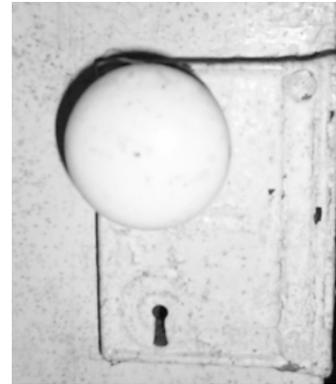
D-14 Opening is 2'-5" x 6'-6"; five 1'-10" x 10" panel wood door; rim lockset with white porcelain knob; hook and eye hardware; 3" x 3" butt hinges.

D-15 Opening is 2'-8" x 6'-9"; two 21" x 1'-9" glass lights over one 11" wood panel; mortise- and- tenon construction; lock set with brown porcelain knob; slide latch and pull hardware; 4" x 3" butt hinges.

D-16 Opening is 2' x 6'-9"; door is two-panel; pull on outside; 3 1/2" x 3" butt hinges.

D-17 Opening is 2'-8" x 6'-9"; same characteristics as D-12.

D-18 Opening is 2'-8" x 6'-9"; door is missing; notches in door jamb indicate the existence of a door at one time.

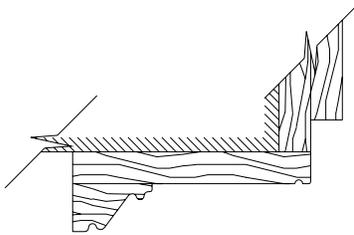


Door Casing Characteristics

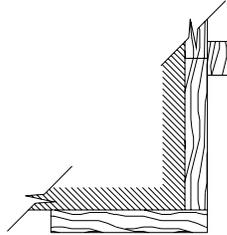
There are a variety of frame casing profiles in the house. In order to best document the combinations of profiles and characteristics, the following schedule of characteristics was developed with an accompanying graphic key to communicate each profile clearly.

Schedule of Existing Door Casing Characteristics									
Door No.	Room Side	Head Profile	Jamb Profile	Threshold	Door No.	Room Side	Head Profile	Jamb Profile	Threshold
D1	Out	-	-	1	D10	101	1	1	3
	101	1	1	1		106	3	3	3
D2	101	1	1	2	D11	106	4	4	1
	102	1	1	2		107	4	4	1
D3	102	2	2	3	D12	106	3	3	1
	103	2	2	3		109	3	3	1
D4	103	1	1	1	D13	107	5	5	1
	Out	-	-	1		108	5	5	1
D5	103	2	2	1	D14	108	5	5	1
	104	2	2	1		109	6	6	1
D6	104	1	1	1	D15	109	3	3	1
	Out	-	-	1		110	3	3	1
D7	104	1	1	2	D16	110	7	7	-
	105	1	1	2		111	-	-	-
D8	105	1	1	2	D17	110	3	3	3
	102	1	1	2		101	1	1	3
D9	101	1	1	1	D18	105	1	1	2
	Out	-	-	-		101	1	1	2

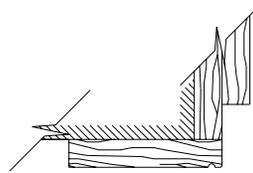
Door Casing Profiles



Head/Jamb 1

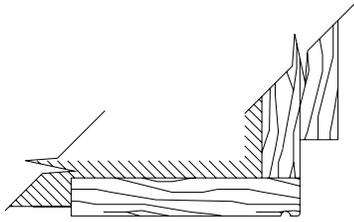


Head/Jamb 2

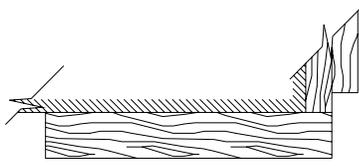


Head/Jamb 3

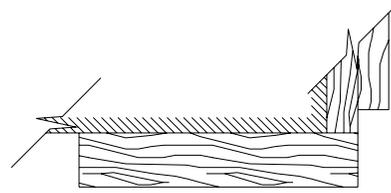
Physical Description



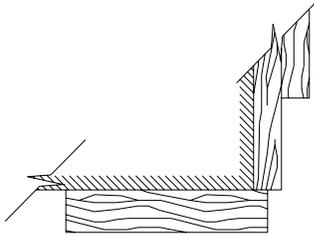
Head/Jamb 4



Head/Jamb 5



Head/Jamb 6



Head/Jamb 7



Threshold Type 1



Threshold Type 2



Threshold Type 3

Summary Description of Interior Conditions

Hall (101)

The central hallway connects the front and rear galleries by exterior doors and contains four interior doors leading to the adjacent rooms in the cottage. The hallway is 5'-9" wide and 22'-11" in length. The presence of a central hall is a unique feature of this part of what appears to be otherwise a traditional Creole cottage. The hall is formed by two *bousillage* walls. The south hall wall appears to be original. There is some question about the time and installation of the north hall wall and the framing that supports it. At a minimum, the creation of the hall appears to be a very early modification of a typical two room Creole cottage. There is evidence of a Creole cottage throughout the southern half of the house.



The significance of the presence of a hall is that it is atypical of a Creole cottage and it represents a floor plan of higher standing or style than would be expected for a secondary cottage when the main house did not possess a central hall.

Floors: The hall flooring consists of creamed colored and square patterned sheet vinyl, likely installed in 1954. This flooring is laid over a plywood or particleboard sub-floor. Examination of the hall flooring from under the house indicates that plank flooring remains at the lowest strata of flooring in the hall. The interior threshold conditions reveal the relationship of the plywood layer in relation to the earlier and, possibly, original layer of flooring.

Walls: Testing confirms that both hallway walls are of *bousillage* construction. Walls are finished with gypsum wallboard (1957 vintage) that has been painted off-white. In this room, the gypsum wall board is attached to an earlier wood plank wallboard. The characteristics of the underlying wood wallboard are not known as it was not exposed and invasion into the wall assembly was limited to a 1" coring in a few selected areas. The wood siding was approximately 3/4" in thickness. Two of the doors entering into the bedrooms (106), (109) are the same in size and style. The opening into the kitchen is the same dimension as the two bedroom door openings. The openings for the front, rear, and into the living room (102) possess similar characteristics. (See Finish Schedule).



Ceiling: The ceiling is 9'-2" high and is finished with gypsum wallboard painted white over an earlier wood ceiling above. From observations in the attic, the earlier ceiling finish was 11"-12" wide boards running in a north-south direction, the short dimension of the hall.

Trim: See Finish Schedule for millwork profiles. All millwork in this room is painted.

Utilities: One surface mounted light fixture in the center of the hall exists. (Type 1.) There are no duplex outlets. One phone jack is mounted on the base of the north wall.

Living Room (102)

At the time of the NPS purchasing the property, this room appears to have generally functioned as what is thought of today as a Living Room or parlor, given its location as the first room off the central hallway.

Investigation reveals that all four walls of the room are of *bousillage* construction, making it one of the earliest rooms of the house. Given the unusual central hall configuration of the house and the existence of what was the original fireplace in the house on the south hall wall, if the hall is in fact a modification of an earlier traditional Creole cottage plan, this room would have originally included the central hall in its dimension.

Floors: Flooring is 4" to 5 1/2"-wide finished tongue- and-groove heart pine. There are two layers of flooring as revealed by the threshold (See Door Schedule) at the doors in the room. The floors appear to have been sanded and stained with a reddish stain finish. The flooring in this room is in excellent condition. There is a floorboard oriented in an east-west direction in the otherwise north-south oriented flooring located 5'-9" to the north of the south wall of the room. The reason for this flooring anomaly is not known.

Walls: The walls are finished with gypsum wallboard over wood wallboards and painted a light green. The gypsum wallboard finish was added as a part of the 1957 renovations. Testing confirms *bousillage* in all four walls of this room.

Ceiling: The ceiling is also covered with gypsum wallboard over 11" - 12" ceiling boards running north- south. The gypsum wallboard is painted white.

Trim: See the Finish Schedule for the profiles of millwork in this room. All moldings in this room are painted white.

Utilities: The room has an exposed junction box for a light in this room but no fixture exists. There are three duplex outlets in the base of this room.

Miscellaneous Features: The room contains a fireplace on the north wall. The flue opening has been plugged with mortar and the firebrick covered with mortar or portland cement. A gas- heater has been inserted into the firebox. The wood mantle is simple in style and is painted white. The mantle in this room corresponds with the character of the mantle in room 103 in detail and size, dating it to the 1880 period of improvements. See photo and detail below.

Living Room (103)

This room was added c.1880- 1881 when Dr. Leveque built an addition on the north end of

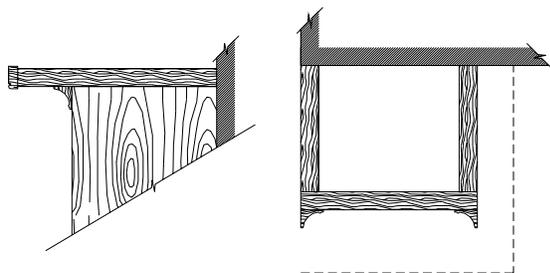


Photo detail, section through living room mantel, and plan view at surround

the house for his daughter, Lucie, and her husband. Oral history indicates that the room eventually served as a living room, while the original living room was used only for formal occasions.¹⁸¹

Floors: The flooring is heart pine or cypress



flooring running in a north/south direction, 4" to 5 1/2" wide with a reddish stain finish similar to that found in room 102. The flooring is in good condition.

Walls: The walls have been covered with 1/2" gypsum wallboard. The walls in this room are painted a light green. The ceiling measures 10' - 10" in height. The west wall of this room, common with Room 104, was added in the 1957 phase of improvements. It appears to be a conventional wood- frame construction in a modern stick- built manner. This room has two interior door openings consisting of a pair of French doors leading into the living room (102) and another to the dining room (104) and one four- paneled exterior door (D4) connecting the room to the front gallery. Two window openings are located on the north side of the room and two flanking the exterior door on the east side. All windows but one have temporary louvered ventilation installed by the NPS.

Ceiling: The ceiling finish is 1/2" gypsum wallboard over 4" tongue- and- groove ceiling boards. The ceiling is painted white.

Trim: See Finish Schedule for trim profiles. The trim is wood and is painted white.

¹⁸¹ Duggan, Oct 2001.

Utilities: There is no light fixture in this room. There are three duplex outlets at the base and one 220 outlet on the north wall of the room.

Miscellaneous Features: The room contains one fireplace on the south side of the room. The fireplace has the same detailing as the fireplace in Room 102. Both were constructed as a part of the 1880 addition. As in Room 102, the flue opening has been in-filled with cement or mortar, and a natural-gas space heater has been installed in the firebox. The wood mantle is painted white. A photo and profiles of the mantle are presented below.

Dining Room (104)

This room was originally part of the room built for Lucie Leveque (Rooms 104 and 104). Oral history places the creation of this room by the installation of the conventionally-framed east wall as part of the 1957 improvements made by Jesse and Adele Brett. This room was most recently used as a dining room.



Floors: The flooring measures 4" x 4 1/4" - wide, running in a north/south direction and is the same heart pine or cypress material and reddish stain finish as the living room (102) and the family room (103).

Walls: The walls have been covered with the 1/2" gypsum wallboard as is found in the living room (102) and the family room (103). The walls are painted pink. The room has two interior door openings into the family room (103) and the kitchen (105) and one exterior door opening onto the rear porch with a transom above. The room contains two window openings, one in the north and one in the west elevation.

Ceiling: In this room, the original 4" tongue-and-groove ceiling boards are concealed by the 1/2" gypsum wallboard. The ceiling is painted white.

Trim: See the Finish Schedule for molding profiles. The molding is painted white.

Utilities: There are two duplex outlets in the east wall. The room has a light fixture in the center of the room (Fixture Type 3). An electrical panel box is located on the north end of the room.

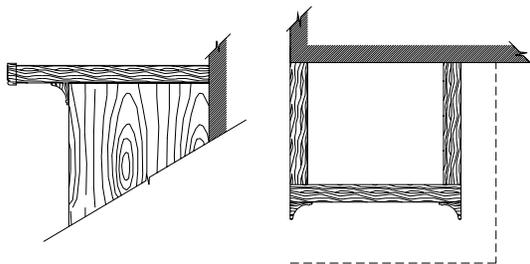


Photo detail, section through mantle, and plan view at surround



Miscellaneous Features: There is a fire extinguisher hanging on the west wall. It is expected that the extinguisher was placed there by the National Park Service as a fire protection measure.

Kitchen (105)

There is some speculation as to the original use of this room. The floor framing plan indicates that this room was framed as a porch. Room 105 is one of the smaller rooms in the house. *Bousillage* construction was found in all but the exterior wall. Often, in the Creole style cottage, *cabinets*, smaller rooms generally used for sleeping, were constructed on the back gallery. However, the walls were typically simple plank walls. The north and south *bousillage* walls extending into what dimensionally appears to have been the rear gallery provides a strong clue that there may have been *cabinets*, albeit non- conventional *cabinets*, on the rear of the Creole cottage vintage structure. If this is the case, there would have not been any significant open rear gallery on this house, only a small hall- like porch, enclosed on three sides in the middle rear of the structure. Oral history states this

room was used in recent memory as a hall, an occasional bedroom, and as a kitchen.

Floors: The floor is a cream- colored, square patterned sheet vinyl like that found in the hall. When the National Park Service removed the fixtures, an area under the kitchen cabinets on the west side of the room revealed the wood floors beneath a plywood layer to which the vinyl was applied. The oldest flooring observed was 5 ½” tongue- and- groove floorboards running east/west.

Walls: The walls are 3 ¼” tongue- and- groove bead board paneling painted yellow. The beaded board in this room differs in dimension by ¼” from that in Room 106. There are three door openings in the room; one leading into the dining room (104), one leading into the living room (102) and one leading into the hallway (101). The hallway opening has evidence indicating that a door once hung in the opening, although there is currently no door hanging in this opening. There are two windows in the west side of this room.

Ceiling: The ceiling is 3 ¼” tongue- and- groove bead board paneling painted yellow.

Trim: See Finish Schedule for trim profiles. The trim in this room is painted yellow.

Utilities: Existing 1 ½” black PVC line for the sink drain and ½” copper tubes for hot and cold water service are stubbed out of the floor. The room contains a two bulb fluorescent fixture (Fixture Type 4). There are three duplex outlets in the baseboard. Since the plywood sub- flooring covers part of the base and outlet covers, it is clear that the plywood sub- flooring was installed after the electrical outlets were installed in the base.

Miscellaneous Features: The National Park Service has removed all the fixtures with the exception of an oven hood.

Bedroom (106)

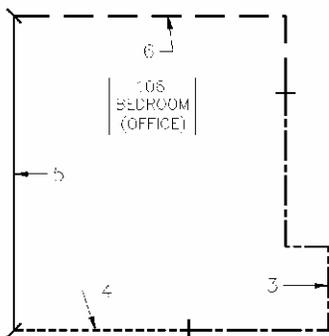
It is believed that this room was added to the original house during the pre- 1870 period of improvements. *Bousillage* construction was found in portions of three walls. Testing reveals that the east wall is *bousillage*. The east half of the north and south walls, as indicated

by joints in the wallboards, are *bousillage*. The transitions from bousillage to an open framed wall correspond with the floor framing of the rear gallery. Known functions for which this room has served include a bedroom, dining room, and kitchen.

Floors: The floorboards are wood and measure 3- 3/8" wide installed in east/west direction. The floorboards are rough in condition and unfinished. It is understood that this room was carpeted when the National Park Service acquired the property. Doris Brett Vincent stated that the rooms of the house were not carpeted when she was living there (pre- 1960).¹⁸²



Walls: The walls are 3" tongue- and- groove bead board paneling painted white and running in a north- south direction. The bead board in this room is common to the rooms on the south end of the building and varies by 1/4" from that found in the kitchen. There are three door openings in the room: one leading



into the hallway (101), one to the closet/utility room (107), and one to the east bedroom (109). There is one window opening on the west wall containing a

pair of 6/6 double- hung windows. A "ghost" of a window can be discerned on the south wall, now paneled in bead board to match the rest of the room. This may indicate that the bead board was installed before the bathroom was built.

Ceilings: The ceiling is 3" tongue- and- groove bead board paneling painted white and running in a north south direction.

Trim: See Finish Schedule for trim profiles. The trim in this room is interesting in that it changes as one moves around the room. The change takes place at the joint between the earlier bousillage walls and the portion of the room that extends beyond the original rear gallery. The key to the location of various molding profiles in this room is presented below.

Utilities: The room has a single light fixture in the center of the room (Fixture Type 5). Five duplex outlets and phone jack are installed in this room. Two of the outlets are at the baseboard level and two are on the wall above the base.

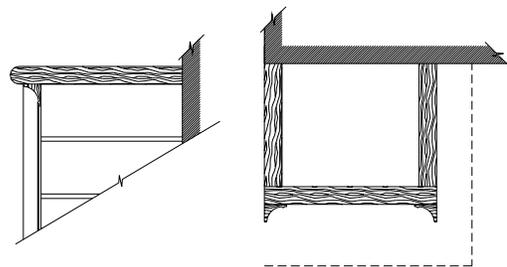


Photo Detail, Section through Mantle, Plan View at Surround

¹⁸² Vincent, 2002.

Miscellaneous Features: The fireplace located on the north wall of room 106 appears to have been added at the time the room was expanded and the gable roof profile created, providing heat and, later, cooking capability to the larger room. The firebrick has a mortar or cement layer covering it. A natural gas space heater is located in the firebox. Between 1940 and 1951, a wood-burning cook stove stood before the fireplace, vented through the fireplace chimney. It may have been removed when Arnold Cloutier updated the kitchen then in this room. The wood mantel appears earlier in style than the mantles in rooms 102 and 103, more simple in its detailing. However, under the Room 106 mantle top there is a piece of trim similar to that found on the mantles in rooms 102 and 103. This suggests that this mantle was modified with the simpler trim after the 1880 addition mantels were installed. A photo and details of the Room 106 mantle are presented below.



Closet (107)

Oral history places the enclosure of this closet in the mid- to- late 1920s. An examination of the floor framing in this area suggests that the

floor structure of this room occurred simultaneously with that of Room 106. The original floor structure of this room may have been an exterior porch prior to being enclosed for a closet. The roofline of the closet is notably different from the structure to which it is attached, suggesting that construction most likely occurred at different times. The plumbing indicates this room was also used as a laundry room. Doris Brett Vincent stated that the laundry features were installed by herself and her husband in the 1990s when Margo Haas was renting the Cottage from them.¹⁸³

Floors: The flooring is tongue- and- groove wood floorboards measuring 3 ½” wide, installed in east/west direction. This flooring is unfinished and in fair to poor condition. A square of the vinyl sheet flooring that is in the hall is laid in the northeast corner of the room, providing protection of the wood floor from an inactive water heater resting on it.

Walls: The room has two door openings, one into bedroom (106) and bathroom (108). The room contains one window opening on the south wall, which was originally a door opening. The walls mostly consist of 9 ¼” boards butted together. Beneath the window opening, the boards are of smaller dimensions where the door opening was filled.

Ceiling: The ceiling is 12” wide butt jointed wood boards painted white.

Trim: See Finish Schedule for trim characteristics in this room. All trim is painted white in this room.

Utilities: The room contains a Rheem 40-gallon water heater. It is not know if the water heater is in working order because it is disconnected. The water heater has a 3” flue to the exterior, ¾” hot and cold water supply lines, and a ½” gas line. All other laundry-related fixtures have been removed. A 2” PVC drain line and vent stack and two ½” PVC supply lines for hot and cold water service for a washing machine still exist. The room contains one 220V outlet and one 110V outlet, a typical layout for washer/dryer installations.

¹⁸³ Vincent, 2002.

Bathroom (108)

According to oral history, the bathroom was added by Guy Cloutier when he and Elise Elizabeth Prud'homme Cloutier were renting the house. Since the two did not marry until June 10, 1925, the bathroom was most likely added in the latter part of the 1920s.

Floors: The floors are similar as in Bedroom (106) in both size and finish, 3- 3/8" wide tongue- and- groove wood; however, they were installed in a north/south direction. The flooring is unfinished and in fair condition.

Walls: The walls are gypsum wallboard painted blue with a vertical bead board wainscot to 42" above finished floor, including an 8" wood baseboard and a 1" wainscot cap. The wainscot has an off- white paint finish. The room contains door openings into closet (107) and bedroom (109)

Ceiling: The ceiling is gypsum wallboard over 12" wide butt- jointed wood.

Trim: See the Finish Schedule for trim profiles.

Utilities: There are two light fixtures (Fixture Types 6 and 2) in this room. No electrical outlets were identified in this room. Existing



plumbing fixtures include a white, floor- mounted tank type toilet, a wall- mounted, enameled cast- iron lavatory, and a white enameled cast- iron tub with claw feet. There is also a gas space heater located in this room.

Miscellaneous Features: The bathroom includes a series of wire type towel bars and a complementary toothbrush holder. There are two towel holders on the east wall, one on the south wall and two on the north wall. The toothbrush holder is located to the right of the sink on the north wall.

Bedroom (109)

This room is sometimes referred to as the Doctor's Office, although a smaller area (closet 110) actually served as the office. The early uses of this room are unclear. While it is attached to the room most commonly



understood to be the Doctor's office, if this room was a support room, such as a waiting room, one would have had to enter the waiting room through the central hallway, thus having sick patients coming into the living area of the house. This seems unlikely. The room in all or part may have provided support to the medical functions of the adjacent room but was probably not a waiting area. One of the most unique features of this room is the configuration of the floor (described below). While unusual in its configuration and underlying framing, this room has been in this configuration for a long time and most probably as far back as the original Creole



cottage. This room has also served as a bedroom and a dining room.

Floors: The flooring in this room displays characteristic

s different from other rooms in the cottage. While the entire floor consists of unfinished worn floorboards, there is an unusual arrangement of the floorboards. On the north side of the room, north of an east- west line 5'- 9" from the north wall are 6" +- floorboards running north/south. In an area around the fireplace and still north of the east west line 5'- 9" off of the north wall, floorboards measuring between 11" and 13½" wide are installed in front of the hearth. Approximately centered on door D12 and running from the threshold of that door eastward is a single floorboard measuring 4½"x 3'- 3" wide set in the otherwise north- south running flooring. In the same east- west alignment as the oddly oriented floorboard at door D12 but on the east side of the room is another board 4 ½"x 5' from the east wall. South of the above- defined east west line 5'- 9" from the north wall are floorboards of 4" +- and running north/south. Currently, no explanation has been found for the piecemeal arrangement of these floorboards. However, it is possible that the floor around the fireplace was damaged, either from fire or wear, and replaced.

Walls: The walls are 3 ¼" beaded tongue- and- groove wood paneling painted white and

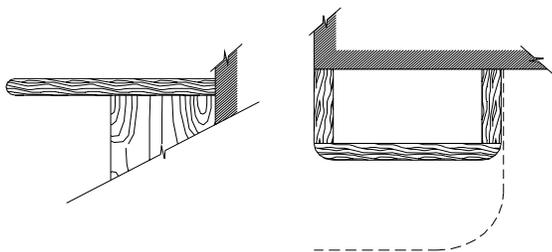
similar to bedroom (106). There are four door openings in the room: into the bathroom (108), closet (110), bedroom (106) and the hallway (101). There are two window openings on the south and east walls.

Ceiling: The ceiling is 3 ¼" beaded tongue- and- groove wood paneling painted white similar to the other areas with exposed beaded tongue- and- groove wood paneling.

Trim: See the Finish Schedule for trim profiles in this room.

Utilities: There is one light fixture in the center of the room (Fixture Type 7) and three duplex outlets in the base.

Miscellaneous Details: The fireplace in this room contains a plaster over brick firebox with a gas space heater similar to the heaters in the other fireplaces in the building. The mantle, likely the oldest in the house is quite simple in its detailing and may be original to the room. Details of this mantle are presented below. The masonry chimney of this fireplace has been removed to approximately the mantel height, exposing the *bousillage* north wall of the room when viewed from the attic.



has been removed to approximately the mantel height, exposing the *bousillage* north wall of the room when viewed from the attic.

Closet (110)

Closet (110) with closet (111) are believed to have been the original doctor’s office. The larger of the two existing rooms (Room 110) appears to have been notably modified with the subdivision into room (111). The room was covered with gypsum wallboard at the time of the 1957 improvements.

Floors: The flooring is wood tongue- and-groove boards measuring 5” to 6 ½” wide, unfinished, running in an east/west direction over the north south floor framing of what was originally the open front gallery.

Walls: The walls are ½” gypsum wallboard likely over wood wallboards on wood framed



walls on the north, south and east elevations of the room. The wallboard is painted blue on the walls and white on the ceiling. The room has two door openings, into bedroom (109) and closet (111). There are two window openings on the south and east walls. The

south window was formerly a door accessing the Doctor’s office from outside. It was closed and converted to a window in the 1950s. The ceiling contains the only access to the attic.

Ceiling: The ceiling is gypsum wallboard over butt jointed planks of 16” width. The ceiling is painted white.

Trim: See the Finish Schedule for the profiles of the trim in this room.

Utilities: There is only one ceiling- mounted light fixture in this room (Fixture Type 8). No other utilities were observed in this room.

Closet (111)

The division of the doctor’s office to create this closet was a part of improvements to the house completed in 1951.

Floors: The floors are similar to the adjoining room (110), 4 ¼” – 5 ½” tongue- and- groove wood running in an east- west direction.

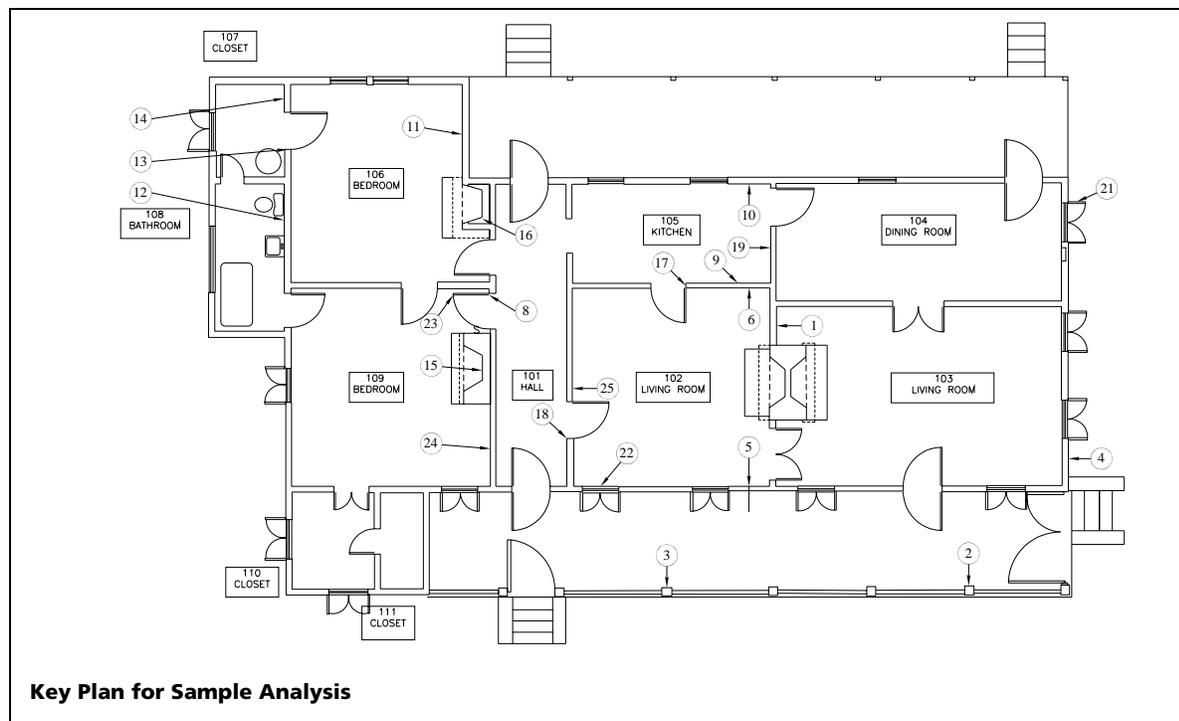
Walls: The walls are ½” gypsum wallboard likely over wood wallboards on wood framed walls on the north and east elevations of the room. The south wall is a stud partition of narrower dimension than the unfinished door casing. The wallboard is painted blue and the ceiling white. The room has one opening into Closet 110. There are no windows in this room.

Ceiling: The ceiling is gypsum wallboard over butt- jointed planks 16” wide. The ceiling is painted white.

Trim: See Finish Schedule for trim profiles

Utilities: There is one light fixture in the center of the room (Fixture Type 8).

Miscellaneous Features: Oral history identifies the north wall as originally being lined with three cabinets of shelves with glass doors enclosing them. The shelving no longer exists in the original location. However there is a built- in wood shelving unit on the south wall west of the door. Oral history indicates that these shelves are from some of Dr. Leveques’ original shelving, used by Jesse Brett, probably during the 1957 renovations, to make shelves for his daughter’s use in this closet. Hinge marks on the shelves indicate the presence of



doors on the shelves, though the existing shelves do not have doors.

Summary of Materials Research Findings

Twenty five material samples were collected from the building to assist in identifying the characteristics of the wall systems. Presented below are the detailed findings related to each sample. Welsh Color and Conservation, Inc. of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, evaluated the samples. The focus of the sampling and testing was to establish a baseline set of information about the wall compositions for the building to assist in identifying dates or characteristics to aid in constructing the sequence and characteristics of each phase in the evolution of the structure. While *bousillage* was submitted to testing as well as wood and drywall strata of the wall sections, the *bousillage* itself did not reveal any notable findings beyond the earth with plant material binder that was expected. However, there was evidence of coatings on the *bousillage* that are of note. Sample 8B, 19 and 25 exhibit some finish material in proximity of the *bousillage*. Of particular interest is sample 19, which

reveals several layers of finish in proximity to the *bousillage* including a layer of sand plaster. This sample is of interest because it is from one of the rear gallery *bousillage* walls for which a clear link to the evolution of the structure is not yet established. This sample suggests that the wall is different from and possibly a higher level of finish than other *bousillage* walls. It suggests that plaster was applied to the *bousillage*. However, since this sample is the only one revealing these characteristics, it is not appropriate to draw too many conclusions from the finding. The balance of the samples identified finish materials from the late 19th to mid 20th century.

Analytical Results from Samples

Sample 1/ South wall of Room 103

Location/Description: Drywall, South wall of living room.

Layers and Comments: First Layer, white textured coating, Second Layer, light green, mid 20th century latex.

Sample 2/ Front Gallery Boxed Column at North (1880) Addition

Location/Description: Gallery side of front gallery boxed column second from north end of porch .

Layers and Comments: Very weathered/ aged wood surface, 1st finish very thin residue of white lead based oil paint (chalky), 2- 4 layers of finish, whites, middle 20th century. Note: Not a good sample location to find full layering. Look up at top of column where more protected from weather.

Sample 3 /Front Gallery Chamfered Column, Bousillage Section

Location/Description: Gallery side surface of Chamfered Column, fifth column from north end of gallery.

Layers and Comments: 1st layer very thin, chalky (residue) white- probably whitewash (totally consumed by HCl), 2nd layer lt. Pink (oil paint), old.

Sample 4 /Wood Siding at North Elevation, East Side

Location/Description: Wood siding under asbestos tile siding at east corner.

Layers and Comments: Very degraded wood surface, not a good sample location- too exposed to the weather. There is a trace of an old olive colored paint in the open grain of the wood. Recommend testing another location for more complete color analysis.

Sample 5A /Room 103, East Wall, North Side

Location/Description: East wall of 1880 Addition, Test includes drywall and wood layer below.

Layers and Comments:

Wood: 1st Layer, Brownish Pink Coat of Primer, 2nd Layer, Finish coat of Brownish Pink. The first two layers are lead based oil. 3rd and 4th Layers are finish coats of yellow/green, mid 20th century.

Drywall: 1st Layer white textured paint, 2nd Layer, light green, latex, mid to late 20th century.

Sample 5B /Room 102, East Wall North Side

Location/Description: Bousillage sample that was taken in plug core with Sample 5A.

Layers and Comments: Clays and plant fibers. No paints or coatings on any surface of this sample.

Sample 6A /Room 102, West Wall, North End

Location/Description: Multi layer plug on west wall close to floor and above base

Layers and Comments:

Wood: Same as Sample 5A.

Drywall: Same as 5A

Sample 6B /Room 102, West Wall, North End

Location/Description: Bousillage sample that was taken in plug core with Sample 6A.

Layers and Comments:

Wood: Same as Sample 5B.

Drywall: Same as Sample 5B.

Sample 7 /East Wall, 1880 Addition

Location/Description: Plug sample through drywall and wood interior wall boards.

Layers and Comments:

Wood: Weathered wood, aged, no coatings at all.

Drywall: Same as Sample 1.

Sample 8A /Room 109, West Wall

Location/Description: Core Sample of wood wallboard.

Layers and Comments: 1st Layer, Medium Green, Lead based oil paint, late 19th century, 2nd Layer, Medium Green, Lead based oil paint, late 19th century, 3rd Layer, Medium

Physical Description

yellow, lead based oil paint, early 20th century, Layer 4 & 5, pink, white, mid to late 20th century. Note: Medium green separates from wood with ease, but there is no dirt on wood surface.

Sample 8B / Room 109, West Wall

Location/Description: Bousillage plug taken with sample 8A.

Layers and Comments: Clays and plant fibers. There are several pieces of white lime whitewash, each has between 3- 5 layers.

Sample 8C / Room 109, West Wall

Location/Description: Wood post in wall (this sample happened to hit an interior framing member. This sample is the wood taken from that member.)

Layers and Comments: No paints, just residue of bousillage.

Sample 8D / Room 109, West Wall, North Corner

Location/Description: Beaded tongue- and-groove.

Layers and Comments: Same as Sample 8A.

Sample 9A / Room 105, East Wall, North Corner

Location/Description: Beaded tongue- and-groove wall boards.

Layers and Comments: 1st Layer, Lt. Gray, no lead, early to mid 20th century, 2nd Layer, Dark Green, no lead, early to mid 20th century, 3rd and 4th Layers, yellows, no lead, mid 20th century.

Sample 9B / Room 105, East Wall, North Corner

Location/Description: Bousillage taken in core with Sample 9A.

Layers and Comments: Bousillage, clays, etc. No evidence of any paint finishes on this sample.

Sample 10 / Room 105, West Wall, North Corner

Location/Description: Beaded wood wallboard.

Layers and Comments: Same as Sample 9A.

Sample 11 / Room 106, North Wall

Location/ Description: Tongue- and- groove beaded wall board.

Layers and Comments: 1st Layer, Medium Gray, Lead based paint, early 20th century, 2nd Layer, Light Green, middle 20th century, 3rd Layer, white, late 20th century.

Sample 12 / Room 108, Bathroom, North Wall

Location/Description: Bousillage sample.

Layers and Comments: No paint evidence.

Sample 13- 14 / Room 107, North Wall

Location/Description: Bousillage.

Layers and Comments: Clays and plant fibers, No paint evidence.

Sample 15 / Behind Fireplace at Room 109

Location/Description: Bousillage.

Layers and Comments: Clays and plant fibers, no paint evidence.

Sample 16 / Room 106, Bousillage at Chimney

Location/ Description: Bousillage taken from attic at the location of the fireplace chimney.

Layers and Comments: Clays, but no plant fibers.

Sample 17 / Room 105, Door to Room 102

Location/Description: Sample on door facing.

Layers and Comments: 1st Layer, White Lead based Oil paint, Late 19th century- early 20th century, 2nd Layer, Same as first, 3rd Layer, same as first, 4th and 5th Layers, yellows, early 20th century, 6th layer, Dark Green, mid 20th

century, 7th, 8th and 9th Layers, Lt Yellows, mid 20th century.

Sample 18 /Room 102, Door to Hallway

Location/Description: Wood door.

Layers and Comments: 1st Layer, white, lead based oil paint, late 19th - early 20th century, 2nd Layer, same as layer one, 3rd Layer, same as layer one, 4th and 5th Layers, yellows, early 20th century, 6th Layer, Dark Green, mid 20th century, 7th+ Layer, Light Yellow, mid 20th century. Sample is missing top layers seen on Sample 17.

Sample 19 /Room 105, North wall

Location/Description: Bousillage, plaster and wood taken in a core.

Layers and Comments:

Bousillage: Clays with plant fibers and a large, white fragment consisting of the following layers: 1st Layer, white lime wash, 2nd Layer, Sand Plaster, 3rd Layer, light pink lime wash, 4th Layer, white lime wash. The age of these washes is unknowable. It is most likely they are 19th century. All are consumed by acid.

Wood: 1st Layer, Yellowish Gray, no lead, early to middle 20th century, 2nd Layer, Light Gray, no lead, early to middle of 20th century, 3rd layer, dark green, no lead, middle 20th century, 4th and 5th Layers, yellows, middle to late 20th century.

Sample 20 /Room 104, West Wall near Doorway to Kitchen

Location/Description: Wood and drywall samples taken in a core .

Layers and Comments:

Wood: unpainted, aged surface.

Drywall: 1st Layer, Beige textured paint, middle to late 20th century, 2nd Layer, Medium Pink, middle to late 20th Century.

Sample 21 /Shutter, North Elevation

Location/Description: Wood.

Layers and Comments: Weathered wood, 1st Layer, Residue of red iron oxide in wood grain, 20th century, 2nd to 5th Layers, Dark Green, middle to late 20th century. Note: The early layers are missing due to weathering.

Sample 22 /Room 102, East Window, Interior Casing

Location/Description: Wood casing.

Layers and Comments: 1st Layer, white, lead based oil paint, late 19th century, 2nd Layer, same as 1st Layer, Layer 3, white, lead based oil paint, early 20th century, 4th and 5th Layers, Grayish Greens, early to mid 20th century.

Sample 23 /Room 109, Door to Room 101

Location/Description: Wood door.

Layers and Comments: 1st Layer, white lead based oil paint, late 19th century, 2nd Layer, same as 1st Layer, 3rd - 4th Layers, light yellows, early 20th century. 5th Layer, Medium Green, mid 20th century, 6th - 7th Layers, Light Yellow, White, middle to late 20th century.

Sample 24 /Room 109, Flooring

Location/Description: Wood flooring.

Layers and Comments: Dirt on worn wood surface, no coatings.

Sample 25 /Room 102, South Wall

Location/Description: Core of bousillage, wood and drywall.

Layers and Comments:

Bousillage: Thin white lime wash.

Wood: Same as Layer 5A.

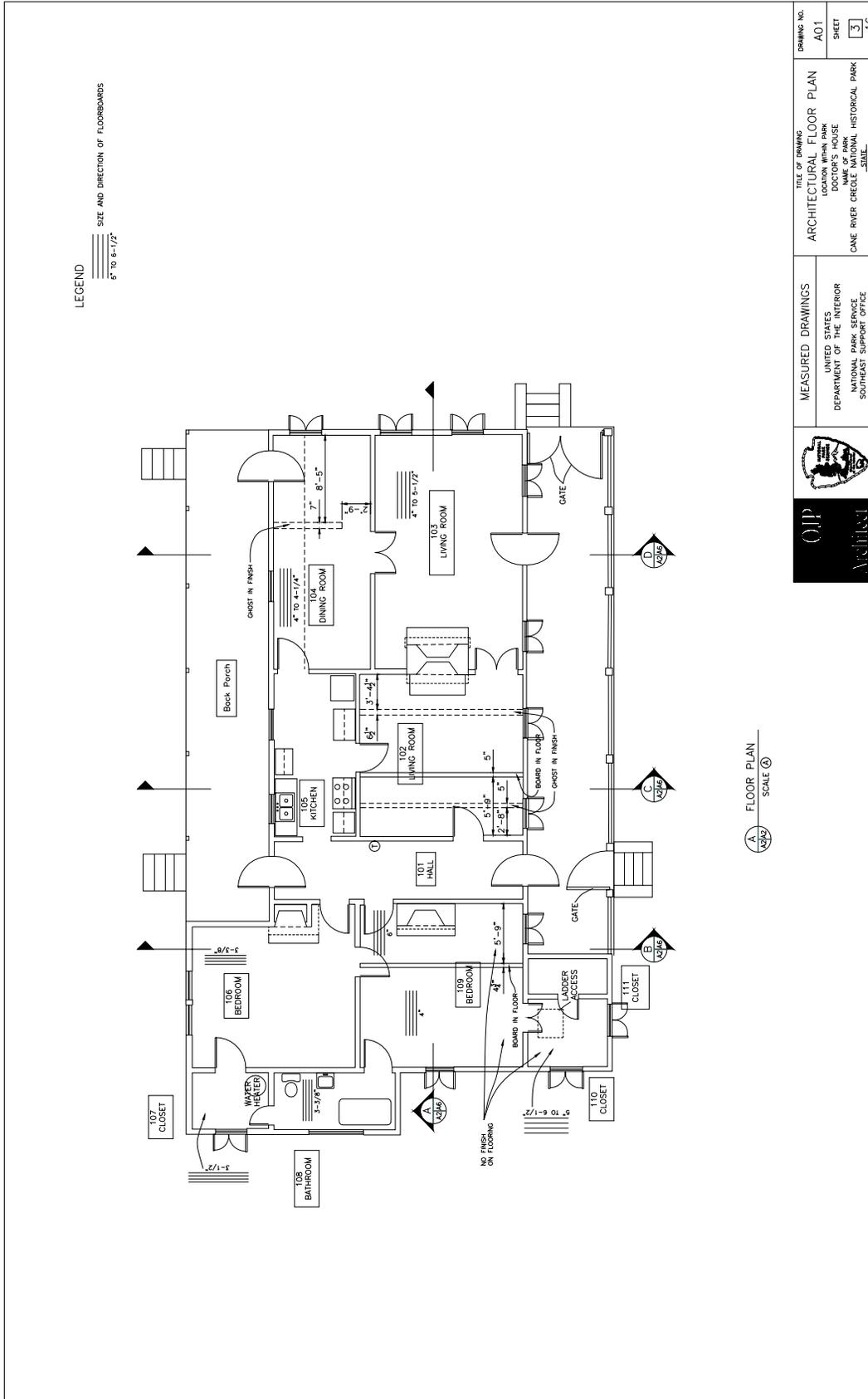
Drywall: Same as Layer 5A.

Physical Description

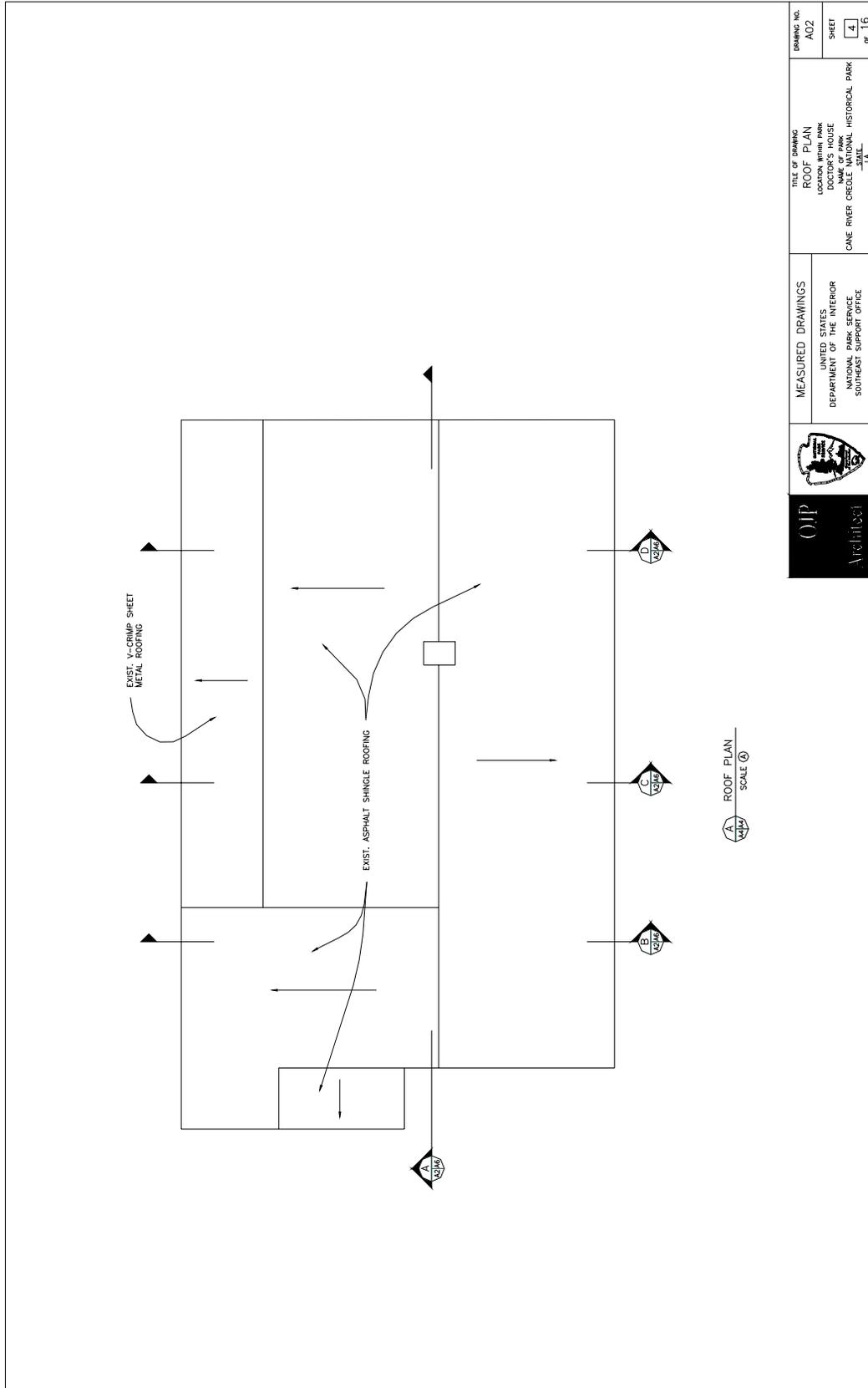
DRAWINGS

The following drawings are based on measured drawings prepared by the Denver Service Center of the National Park Service. The original drawings were provided in electronic format to the preparers of this Historic Structure Report as base drawings on which findings and other information relative to this report could be recorded for inclusion in the Historic Structure Report.

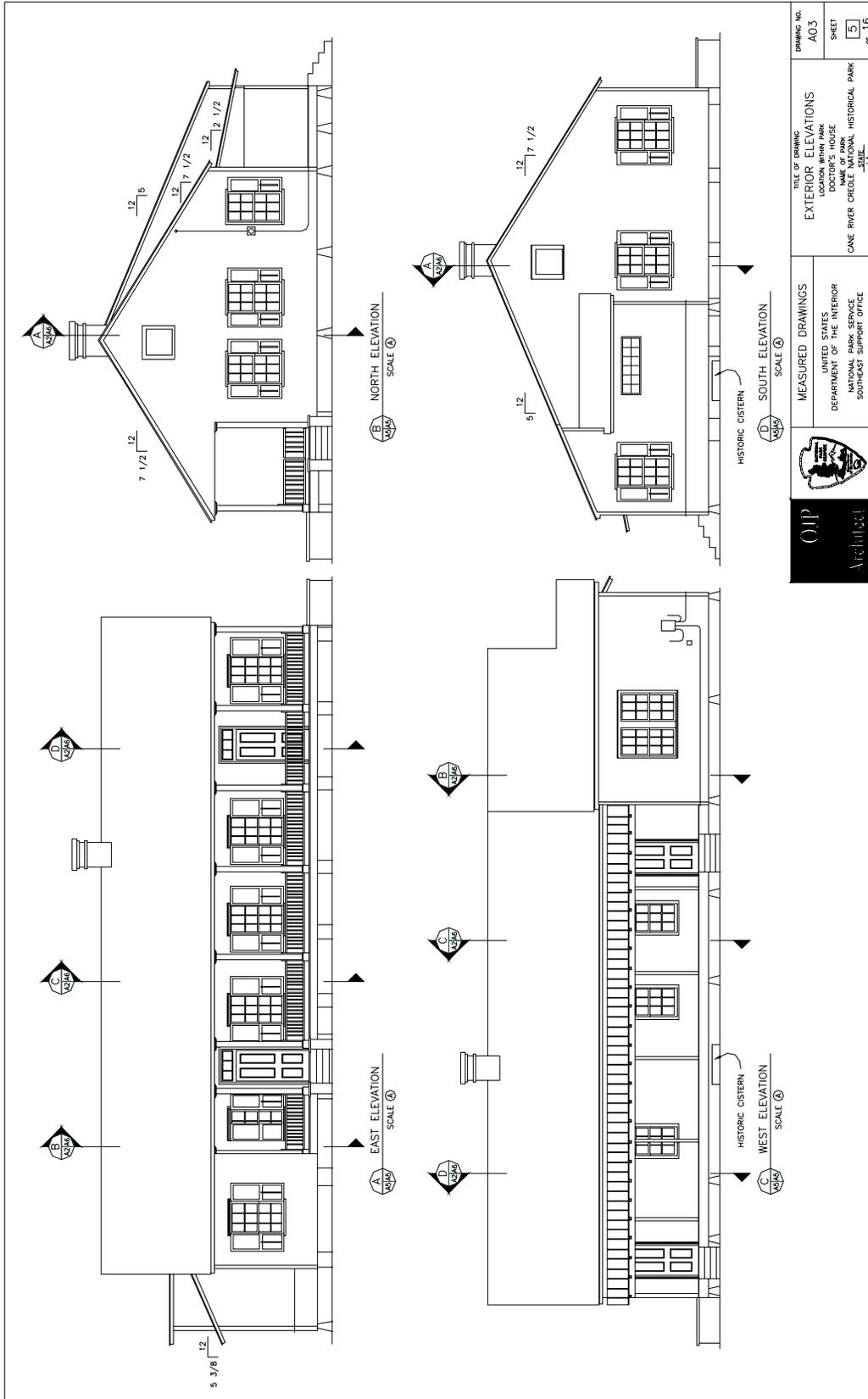
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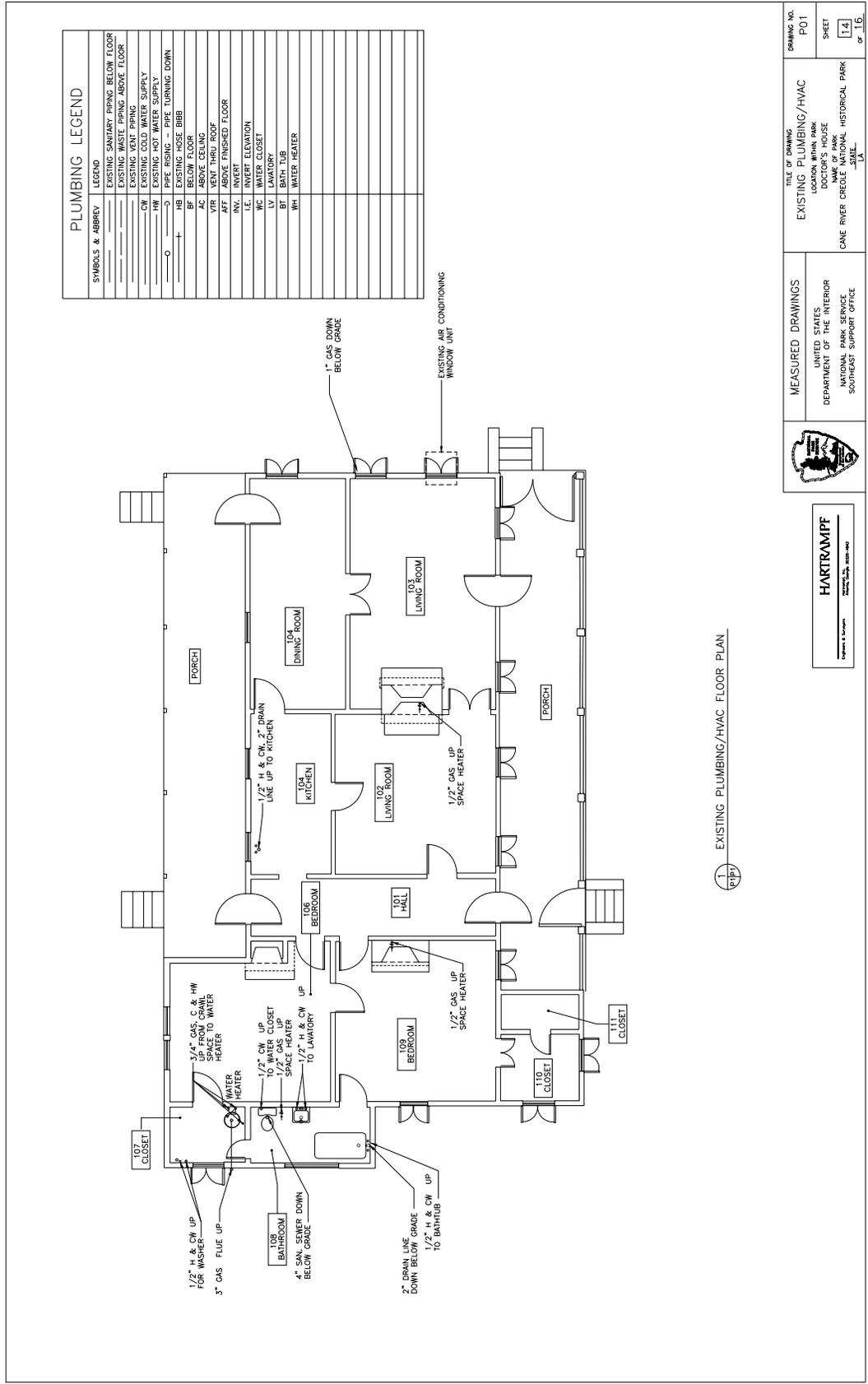
Physical Description



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			LOCATION WITHIN PARK DOCTOR'S HOUSE NAME OF PARK CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK STATE LA	SHEET 4 of 16

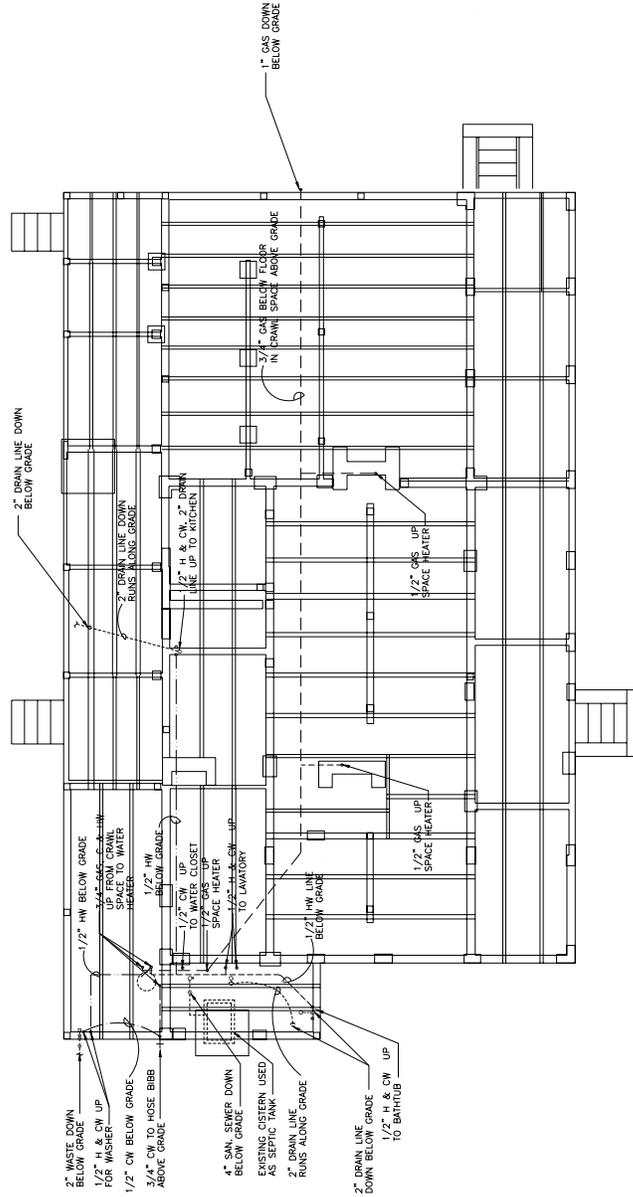


 OIP Architect	MEASURED DRAWINGS UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SOUTHWEST SUPPORT OFFICE	TITLE OF DRAWING EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS DOCTOR'S HOUSE	DRAWING NO. AO.3
	CANE RIVER CIRCLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK 1811	NAME OF PARK	SHEET 5 OF 16



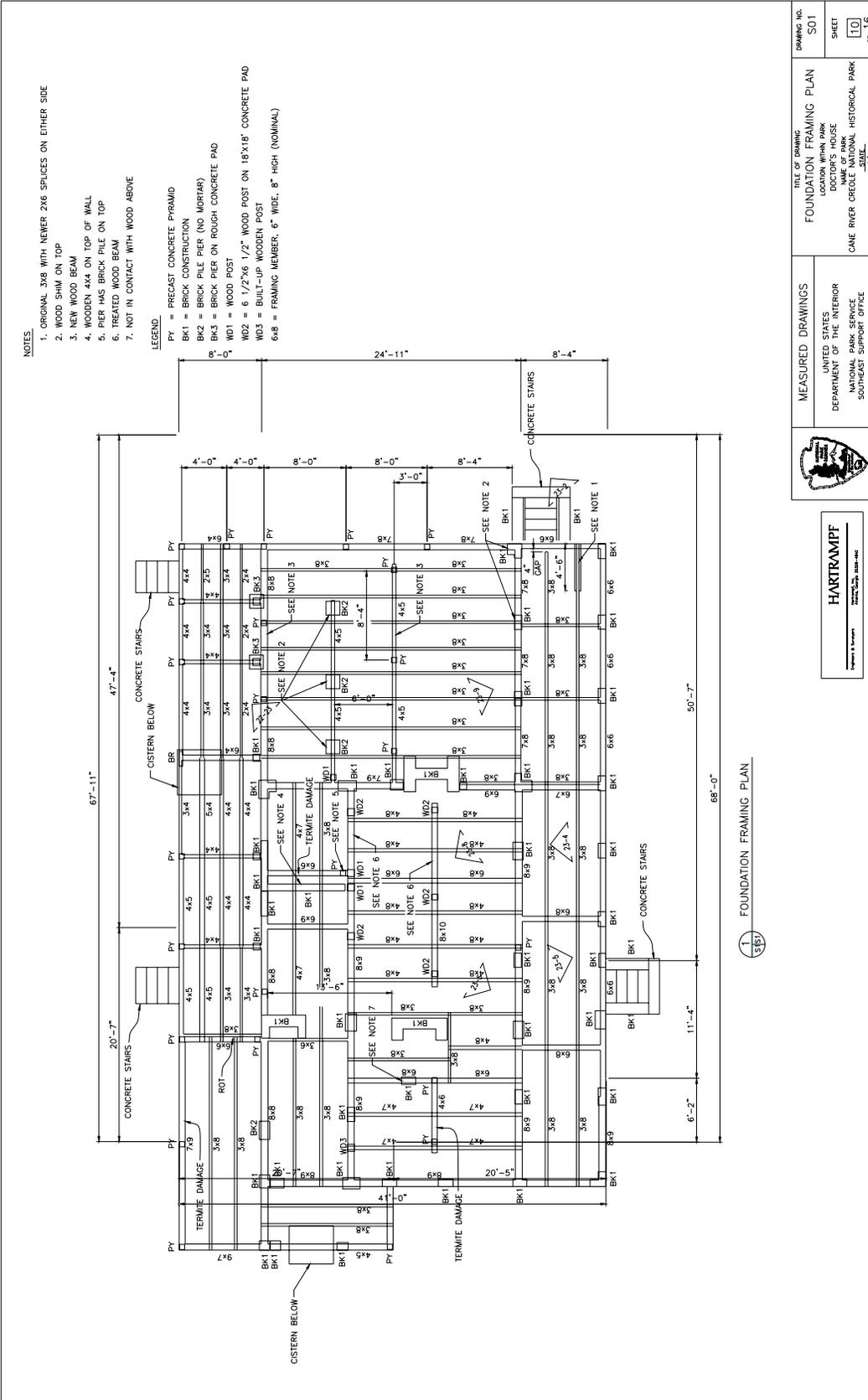
MEASURED DRAWINGS	UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SOUTHEAST SUPPORT OFFICE	DRIVING NO. P01
	 HARTRAMPF <small>Engineers & Planners 1000 Highway 90, Suite 1000 Jackson, MS 39202</small>	TITLE OF DRAWING EXISTING PLUMBING/HVAC LOCATION WITHIN PARK DOCTOR'S HOUSE NAME OF PARK CAJON RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK STATE LA
SHEET 14		
		of 16

PLUMBING LEGEND	
SYMBOLS & ABBREY	LEGEND
---	EXISTING SANITARY PIPING BELOW FLOOR
---	EXISTING WASTE PIPING ABOVE FLOOR
---	EXISTING VENT PIPING
---	EXISTING STORM SEWER PIPING
---	EXISTING COLD WATER SUPPLY
---	EXISTING HOT WATER SUPPLY
---	PIPE RISING - PIPE TURNING DOWN
---	EXISTING GATE VALVE
---	EXISTING YARD HYDRANT
---	EXISTING HOSE BIBB
---	EXISTING FLOOR CLEANOUT
---	EXISTING FLOOR DRAIN
---	BELOW FLOOR
---	ABOVE CEILING
---	VENT THRU ROOF
---	ABOVE FINISHED FLOOR
---	INVERT
---	INVERT ELEVATION
---	FINISH FLOOR ELEVATION
---	WATER CLOSET
---	LAVATORY
---	URINAL
---	SERVICE SINK
---	ELECTRIC WATER COOLER
---	DRINKING FOUNTAIN
---	PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE



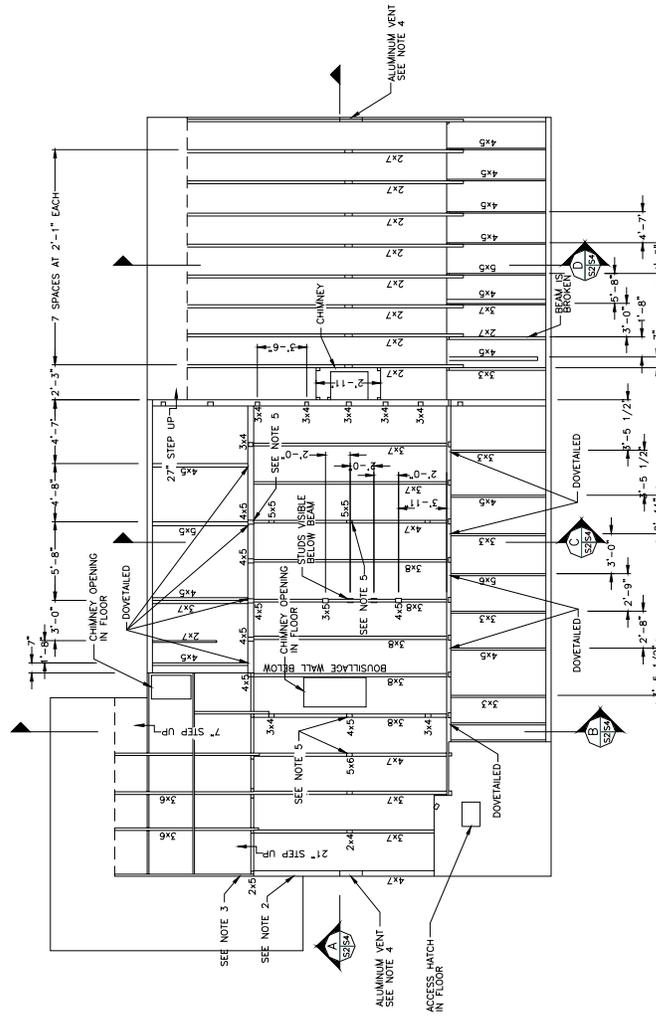
EXISTING PLUMBING PLAN IN CRAWL SPACE

	MEASURED DRAWINGS UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SOUTHEAST SUPPORT OFFICE	TITLE OF DRAWING PLUMBING PLAN IN CRAWL SPACE	DRAWING NO. P02
	HARKTRAMPP ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS 1000 N. GARDNER ST., SUITE 100 TAMPA, FL 33604	LOCATION WITHIN PARK DOCTOR'S HOUSE 1000 N. GARDNER ST. TAMPA, FL 33604 HISTORICAL PARK CANE RIVER CREEK NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK STATE: FL COUNTY: LA	SHEET 15 OF 16



NOTES

1. FRAMING SIZES GIVEN ARE NOMINAL.
2. WALL: HORIZONTAL WOOD PLANKING, NOM. 7"x1/2". SOME WET ROT, SOME EVIDENCE OF INSECT DAMAGE. DAMAGE IS NOT ENOUGH TO IMPACT STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY. WALL SUPPORTS 2" O.C., VARYING SIZES.
3. SMALL SPACE BETWEEN FRAMING OF MAIN BUILDING AND FRAMING OF NEW BATHROOM ADDITION.
4. WOOD SIDING AROUND VENTS IS MORE DETERIORATED FROM MOISTURE INFILTRATION THAN OTHER PARTS OF THE SIDING.
5. POST PREPARED FOR MORTISE AND TENON JOINING.

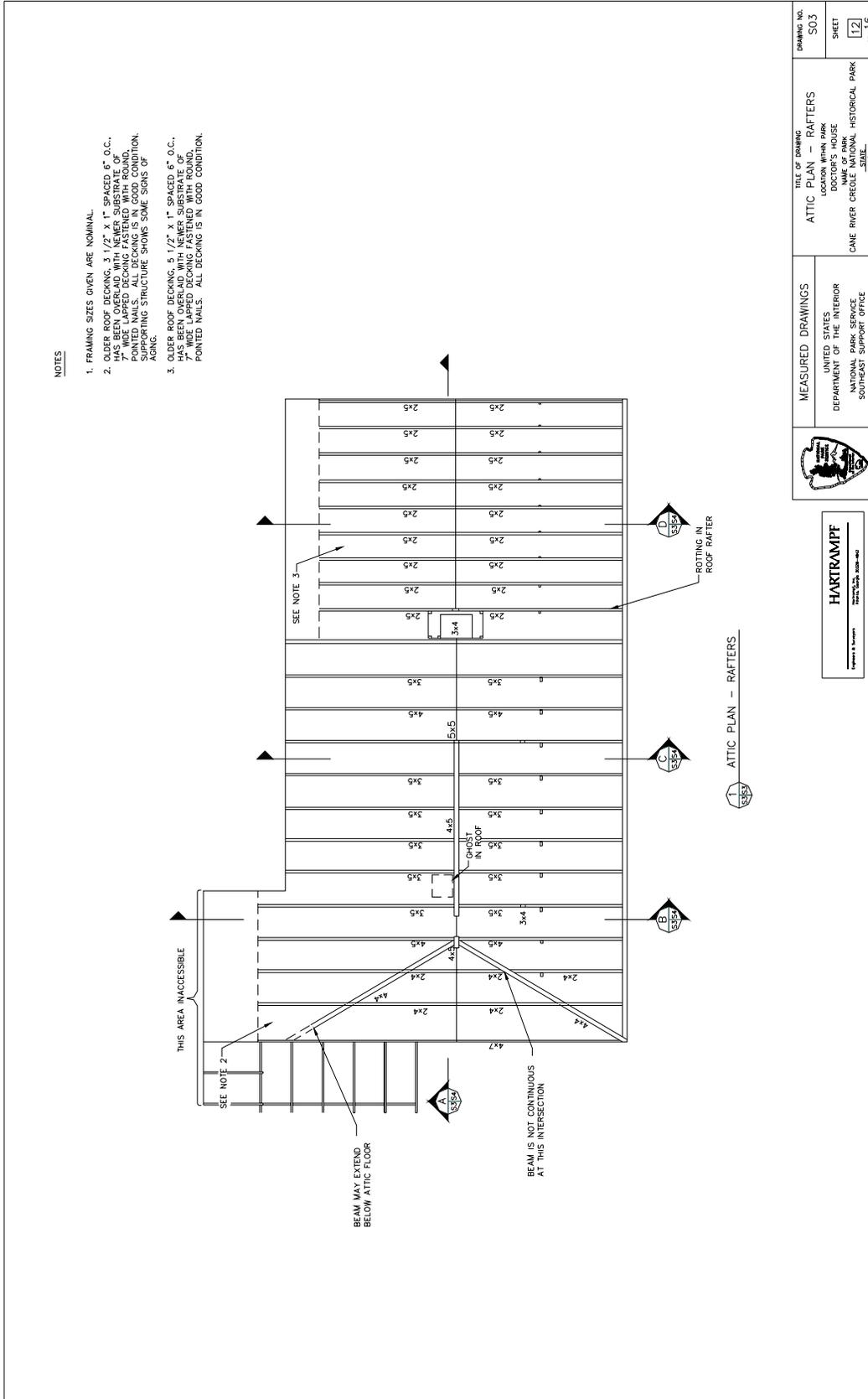


ATTIC FLOOR FRAMING PLAN

	MEASURED DRAWINGS	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SOUTHEAST SUPPORT OFFICE
	TITLE OF DRAWING	FLOOR FRAMING PLAN

DRAWING NO. S02 SHEET 11 OF 16	LOCATION WITHIN PARK DOCTOR'S HOUSE CANE RIVER CIRCLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK -S.M.E. -L.A.
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HARTMANN
 Structural Engineering, Inc.
 10000 N. 10th Street, Suite 100
 Phoenix, AZ 85020



Physical Description

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PART II
TREATMENT AND USE

TREATMENT AND USE

The earliest portion of the Cottage is clearly one of the older structures on the plantation. The cottage's evolution has paralleled the evolution of the management and operation of the plantation. The cottage is connected both to Prud'homme family history through the number of family members that occupied it over time and the larger Cane River community through its occupancy by doctors who served both the plantation and the surrounding community. In its present state and condition, the characteristics of the Cottage, the building materials, and the construction techniques, span the full life of the plantation from the traditional Creole cottage plan of *bousillage* wall construction to mid-twentieth century gypsum wallboard.

The General Management Plan acknowledges the completeness of the setting, structures and artifacts of Oakland Plantation. The Cottage along with its support structures (chicken coop, barn, grist mill, and outhouse) are an integral part of the historical inventory of the site.

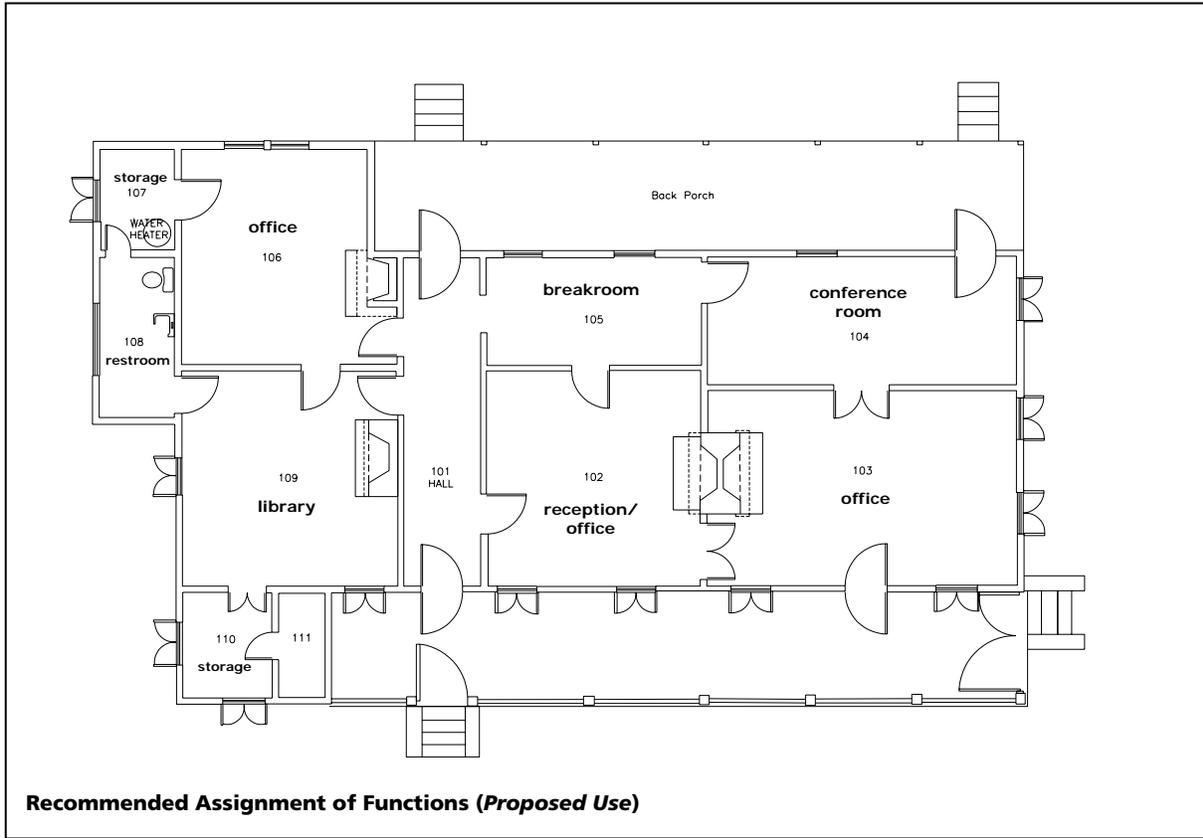
The Cottage is a simple, vernacular building in its outward presentation but complex in its specific characteristics. The investigation of the structure conducted for this report identified 7 significant modifications to the house over its approximately 168 year history. The Cottage was originally constructed as a traditional Creole cottage (the southern portion of the existing house). The first modification was likely the enclosure of a portion of the rear gallery into two *cabinets* with the use of *bousillage* walls typical of the original Creole cottage. At that time, or, if not, close to the time of the addition of the rear *cabinets*, a wall was introduced into the traditional Creole cottage floor plan to create a central hall. Later the southwest room was expanded to include the south *cabinet*. This expansion had a dramatic effect on the structure by changing the hip roof of the traditional cottage to a gable roof to accommodate the change in roof pitch

required for the southwest expansion. The south end of the front gallery was enclosed in 1870 for a doctor's office with an entry into this new room from the outside via a door on the south side of the room. Some time after 1834 and before 1870, a detached kitchen was added to the rear of the house. The last major expansion was a 23-foot addition to the north side of the house in 1880 to accommodate the new family created by Lucie Leveque's marriage. Subsequent changes included the addition of a bathroom in the late 1920s, the demolition of the detached kitchen, the conversion of a back bedroom (Room 105) to an interior kitchen, and the 1957 renovation of the exterior of the house with an asphalt shingle roof and asbestos shingle siding and the interior of the house with gypsum wallboard.

This section of the historic structure report is intended to show how a plan for treatment and use of the Cottage can be implemented with minimal adverse effect to the historic building while accommodating the proposed use of the building for park offices. The issues associated with the proposed use and the legal requirements and other mandates that circumscribe treatment options - preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration - will be addressed before describing the proposed ultimate treatment and the preservation of the structure with sufficient systems and utilities to support the assigned park office functions.

Requirements for Use

Accommodating the use of the building as a park office is the primary preservation issue for the Cottage. Given that the house is intact and, overall, in good condition, the primary issues associated with the proposed use is the introduction of systems to support this new use and occupancy. Generally, this includes power for office equipment, plumbing for restroom and break room functions, and



HVAC sufficient to support productivity in the house. Given the significance of the house to the plantation and community and the substantial historic characteristics embodied within it, the improvements to support park office functions should be effected so as to be reversible.

Character- Defining Spaces and Characteristics:

There are a number of character- defining features that should be protected when accommodating the office function in the house. They include: On the exterior, the porches, columns, siding, windows, trim, stairs, and cisterns are significant. The roof is not significant since it was replaced after 1960. It should be replaced to match the 1957 roof and to provide adequate protection for the building for the foreseeable future. On the interior, the floor, wall, and ceiling finishes are significant, including the earlier layers of finish material such as board walls in much of the interior of the building behind the

drywall. Mantles, hearths and space heaters are significant. Light fixtures are significant.

Assignment of Office Functions to Historically Significant Spaces: Given the span of the period of significance, there is no room more significant than others in the building. However, there are rooms that more appropriately accommodate the functions proposed for the cottage. The plan presented below suggests an assignment of desired functions in the house that are most compatible with the historic characteristics of each room.

The assignments presented are summarized as follows:

Reception/Office (Room 102): The original larger room of the Creole cottage works well as the Reception/Office due to its relationship to the front door of the house, the natural primary entry to the structure. Support requirements for this room would include telephone, network computer connection,

convenience power, heating and cooling, and lighting.

Office (Room 103): To satisfy the private office requirement for the Park Office functions, Room 103, has a good relationship with, but can have privacy from, the reception area and has a convenient relationship with Room 104. Support requirements for this room would include telephone, network computer connection, convenience power, heating and cooling, and lighting.

Conference Room (Room 104): The configuration of this room is suited for a conference room. It can be accessed from three directions: the adjacent private office, the rear porch, and the break room (Room 105). It is assumed that this room would have a conference table, telephone, convenience wiring, heating and cooling, and lighting

Break Room (Room 105): This room was at one time a kitchen. It has plumbing coming to it at this time. It is centrally located to the reception/office, the hall, and the conference room. Assuming this room would have a coffee bar with sink and small refrigerator, it could also have room for a small, freestanding table or an eating counter with stools. It would be helpful if, in the layout, a copy machine could fit in this room given its central location to the office functions in the building. Alternatively, the copier could go in Room 107 off Room 106. It is expected this room (105) will require 220V service for a copier, if one is located in this room.

Office Space (Room 106): This room is large enough to accommodate two or, perhaps, three desks. Being a multiple occupancy office space, access to Room 107 to get to a copier would be workable but more inconvenient than Room 105 as stated above. It is expected that this room would primarily have telephones, convenience power, computer network connection, heating and cooling, and lighting.

Storage/Office Support (Room 107): This small space can handle office support functions, the water heater for the restroom, and limited general storage.

Restroom (Room 108): It is strongly recommended that the bathroom be retained in its historic character and used as a unisex toilet for staff. It will be difficult to keep the toilet and sink functional while retaining the historic character of this room and also have the restroom be ADA accessible. Therefore, an alternative approach to accessible restrooms for handicapped staff and visitors must be considered if the preservation and use functions conflict with the ADA requirements. However, if the National Park Service determines that it absolutely must make the space ADA accessible, see the Ultimate Treatment section for recommendations.

Library (Room 109): This room has been assigned as the library for several reasons. First, it is large enough to accommodate library functions and have room for a work/meeting table. As a public space, access to the restroom without passing through an assigned work area is preferable. Finally, interpretation can take place in this room that can present the bousillage walls on the north wall, the original fireplace, early, if not original, flooring and, potentially, floor framing and the doctor's office.

Reinforcement of the floor system will be required to carry the load of the library.

Interpretation of Doctor's Office (Room 110): While the doctor's office was originally a different configuration, having once had a door to the south that no longer exists, it remains that this room's most notable function in the history of the house was as a doctor's office. Being probably too small for any other meaningful use, it could function as a small interpretative space for the medical history of the plantation and Cane River area.

Storage (Room 111): This room is small and can provide limited storage.

While the existing spaces in the cottage can be configured in different ways, matching the use with the significant characteristics of the space is very important. Therefore, a clear understanding of both the visible character-defining features and the significant historic features (i.e. the wood wall boards under the gypsum wall board, the *bousillage*, etc.) are protected while seeking to provide functional

space for park administration. Given the significance of this structure, it is very important to give priority to protecting and preserving the rich layers of history embodied in the Cottage.

Requirements for Treatment

As previously stated, the Cottage is complex and possesses a diverse range of historic features that collectively parallel the history of Oakland Plantation. To support the preservation treatment for this property, it will be important subordinate the installation of modern systems and conveniences to the preservation of historic integrity. It is possible to achieve both the use objectives and the treatment objectives if emphasis and care are given to the preservation objectives. Significant materials should be protected and preserved. Not only should the impact of installing modern system be considered, but the day- to- day wear of office functions and visitor traffic on the house should be considered in managing the resource. For example, undue wear on historic floors should be considered and measures taken to protect floors while maintaining as authentic an environment as possible. The attic is rich with history and historic building details and features. Therefore, HVAC and electrical systems should minimize the use and/or disruption of the conditions and characteristics there.

Given that the period of significance ends c. 1960, respect for the full scope of materials and treatments in the cottage must be provided. The gypsum wallboard deserves as much respect as *bousillage* for its importance to the history of the Cottage, the plantation and the larger Cane River National Historic Park.

Historic preservation is the primary component of the National Park Service mission for the Cane River National Historical Park, particularly at Oakland, which the General Management Plan has established as the focus of the park's interpretative efforts. The General Management Plan establishes that "the physical treatment of the plantation's

landscape, including structures, would generally reflect the appearance of the plantations when they were still family- run plantations reliant on a resident labor force."¹⁸⁴ This would result in few changes to the current configuration of plantation structures or general appearance of the landscape. The Cottage possesses a special array of characteristics that acknowledge many of the significant periods on the plantation.

Legal mandates and policy directives circumscribe treatment of the Cottage. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) mandates that federal agencies, including the NPS, take into account the effects of their actions on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register and give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment. NHPA regulations (36 CFR 800.10) mandate special requirement for protecting National Landmarks. Section 110(f) of the Act requires that the Agency Official, to the maximum extent possible, undertake such planning and actions as may be necessary to minimize harm to any National Historic Landmark that may directly and adversely affect by any undertaking. The NPS' Cultural Resource Management Guideline (DO- 28) requires planning for the protection of cultural resources whether or not they relate to the specific authorizing legislation or interpretive programs of the parks in which they lie." The Cottage should be understood in its own cultural context and managed in light of its own values so that it may be preserved, unimpaired, for the enjoyment of present and future generations. To help guide compliance with these statues and regulations, the Secretary of the Interior has issued *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. The National Park Service's *Preservation Briefs* also provide detailed guidelines for appropriate treatment of a variety of materials, features and conditions found in historic buildings.

¹⁸⁴ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *Cane River Creole National Historical Park Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*, Denver, 2000, p. 42.

Alternatives for Treatment and Use

There are four main approaches for the treatment of historic buildings: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction. Each represents increasingly more aggressive levels of intervention into the existing building. Given the significance of the Cottage as a whole, any invasive treatment or use will degrade the resource.

The Cottage and all its components span the history of the Prud'homme family and the period of significance. The Cottage has been a part of the plantation and its life for nearly the entire period of significance. It is a significant structure in the history and physical composition of the plantation.

The Cottage is, overall, in very good condition. Fortunately, the roof has remained sound until this time, keeping the house dry and buffered from accelerated deterioration often befalling a vacant structure. Further, the National Park Service has done a good job at keeping air circulating through the house with the use of louvered vents in existing windows.

The proposed use for offices is a change from the structure's original use. To accommodate the use proposed in the General Management Plan, some adaptations will be required. Given the significance of the structure as an artifact, the approaches to providing modern systems and features to support the modern office functions should first consider the protection of the artifact. Priority should be given to protection of the resource over the practice of hiding modern features and systems from view at the expense of more invasion into the structure. One example of an application of this approach would be to use a split system air conditioning unit with a wall-mounted air handler that would be quite visible in a room but that does not require ducting rather than to use a ducted-under-floor system or an attic-ducted system that would require the floor or the ceiling to be cut in numerous places to install registers.

The only structure associated with the Cottage that has been lost and could be considered for

reconstruction is the detached kitchen. However, the reconstruction of this structure would have to be based on information provided in conflicting oral histories. Further, the reconstruction of this building would conflict with the retention of the full spectrum of existing conditions, namely the 1957 drywall, siding and roofing improvements to the house. Therefore, reconstruction of the detached kitchen is not recommended, but its presence should be noted in an interpretive scheme.

The 1957 improvements to the existing Cottage were specifically considered for their relationship to the period of significance. The 1957 improvements included the asbestos siding, drywall, composition shingle roofing, front porch repair and replacement of steps, and rear porch addition. At issue is the relevance of these improvements to the history and meaning of the mission statement for the plantation as stated in the General Management Plan. With these features removed and the previous finishes exposed, the house would reflect a character consistent with a different span of plantation history and function than its current presentation with the 1957 improvements intact. Because the 1957 improvements came within the last 3 years of the 167-year period of significance, their contribution to the character and meaning of the plantation may seem less important than the underlying features that they conceal, also representing the continuum of history on the plantation, and more specifically, the Cottage. This line of thinking does not diminish the importance of the materials used in the 1957 as potentially significant. It is rather more focused on the relationship of these improvements to the history and story to be told by the Cottage and the value and meaning that can be gained in telling that story. However, consistency is important in interpreting the plantation and its component structures. Given that materials similar to those used in the 1957 renovations of the cottage are used in other structures on the plantation at a similar time, it is important to provide a consistent presentation of the period. Once the decision is made to alter one building's relationship to the period of significance, each should be evaluated in

relationship to that change. At that point, the approach becomes restoration rather than preservation. All things considered, the preservation approach provides the most consistent approach and protects the whole resource for future consideration, investigation, understanding, and interpretation alternatives and treatments.

Ultimate Treatment and Use

The recommended approach for the treatment of the Cottage is preservation. Given its good condition, preservation actions will be treatments to existing conditions to maintain existing significant characteristics.

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property. The emphasis should be on repairing and maintaining existing materials and features rather than replacement. This approach translates into the following actions: Preserve rather than replace the building's existing features to the maximum extent possible.

Replace the roof. New roofing to match the 1957 vintage roof should be installed.
Rehabilitate and expand the electrical system in the building to accommodate the anticipated equipment and office functions.
Rehabilitate the bathroom, including refurbishing the toilet and sink to accommodate day to day staff use.
Provide ADA accessibility to the house including a ramp and alternative restroom accommodation if the existing bathroom cannot meet ADA requirements within the recommended preservation treatment.
Insertion of HVAC without the use of a ducted system.

If multiple funding cycles for the preservation and use of the Cottage are required, the above overview of the improvements can be used to establish priorities in meeting the goals for treatment and use. However, beyond the preservation of the historic features and the installation of a new roof, making the building

operational as an office will require the balance of the modifications.

Individual and specific preservation decisions are key to the overall successful preservation of the Cottage. It is the effect of collective decisions that will determine the overall success of the treatment. Therefore, a conservative approach is recommended, in which existing materials are retained (patching rather than replacing). This is truly a concept where “less is more,” as the modernist say. The least amount of work and replacement required to achieve structural and material stability and function is the most desirable approach. The other components are the techniques, approaches, and materials used. They should be compatible with existing historic materials, reversible where at all possible, and have the least impact on the characteristics of existing materials.

The following outlines specific actions by building feature or system:

Site: The determination of historic significance and treatment of the Cottage site is a separate study. However, there are several items that should be taken into consideration in coordinating the site treatment and use with the preservation and use of the cottage. ADA accessibility is a factor. The approach to ADA is addressed separately. The cisterns on the site are significant and should be taken into account in the preservation and interpretation of the property, possibly including the one that was torn down after 1984. The location of visitor paths and interpretive signage should be coordinated with the functional requirements for use of the building for park offices. The site- related, office- use functional requirements, such as employee parking, employee access, and security lighting should be considered in relation to the preservation objectives. The wagon- track that cut across the front of the site in 1957 and wound around the house, finally ending at the barn,¹⁸⁵ could be reinstated for park personnel vehicle access. It may be necessary to remove the existing garage, as it may not fall within the period of significance. However, the garage

¹⁸⁵ Vincent, 2002.

should not be removed until it has been definitively established that the current one did not exist before 1960. The garage was not included in the original scope of this report or of the Conditions Assessment Report, and, therefore, its history is cloudy. The picket fence and formal gardens of the 1938 photograph should not be reinstalled, as they had vanished by 1960¹⁸⁶. Also, little is known from the information available for this study regarding the condition, or even existence, of a septic tank for the Cottage bathroom and kitchen facilities. Park personnel indicated in 2001 that the cistern under the bathroom had been used as a septic tank, and the plumbing under the house confirms this to be the case. A study should be conducted to determine if a septic field now exists, but a new septic field and drain lines would most likely be needed to handle the use of the existing bathroom.

In summary:

- Coordinate historic site treatment- and interpretation- related improvements with functional requirements of the cottage in a park office use, including the issue of ADA access.
- Accommodate an adequate septic system to support the cottage occupancy.

Foundation: The piers are, as a group, a feature of the building in the greatest degree of deterioration and change from the 1960 period. Overall, the existing earlier brick piers are in poor condition. These piers should be rebuilt where necessary or otherwise stabilized with pointing or other lesser demanding actions where at all possible. Where the soil conditions have played a role in the deterioration of piers and they are to be replaced, a below- grade concrete footing should be provided under the new, reconstructed pier. A number of the brick piers have been removed and concrete pyramidal piers installed in 1998- 99 to stabilize the building. The concrete piers should be removed, and new brick piers dimensionally matching the earlier brick piers

should be installed on below- grade concrete footings. Care should be taken to make sure the appropriate archeological clearance and soil- bearing data is available prior to undertaking this action.

In summary:

- Replace concrete piers with brick piers appropriate to the structure in 1960.
- Repair or rebuild to historic dimension and layout, deteriorated brick piers.
- Provide supplementary foundation support where necessary to stabilize the structure in its historically significant layout and character.

Wood Structure: A detailed evaluation of the framing conditions was undertaken with the goal of retaining the original framing while meeting the design requirements for office use. An evaluation of the existing structure was conducted in relation to the proposed use to assure that office use would not overstress the original structure or cause undesirable deterioration or modification.

Overall, the structural condition of the cottage is sound. However, in the structural evaluation, the structural engineer found that areas of the floor framing system were unable to support the desired load for office use. Table 1607.1, “Maximum Uniformly Distributed Live Loads and Minimum Concentrated Live Loads,” from the International Building Code 2000 (see the Conditions Assessment report for this Table) indicates that the minimum load for the occupancy of offices is 50 psf of uniform load. Note that the table indicates that file and computer rooms should be designed for heavier loads, based on anticipated occupancy. In the case of the Cottage, the library is also in this category. Rooms 101, 102, 105, 108, and 109 support office loading in their current configuration. Rooms 103, 104, 106 and 107, however, would require additional support to meet current load requirements for office space (see “Allowable Floor Loads” drawing in the Appendix). Rooms 110 and 111

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

might be exempted from requiring additional support depending on the weight of the equipment the National Park Service may choose to install in these rooms.

Strengthening of the existing structure can be accomplished by decreasing the span of the floor joists by installing new girders and posts between the existing support girds. Note that this type of strengthening has already been installed at other locations under the house, and would, therefore, not be inconsistent with earlier, historic attempts to strengthen and level the structure.

This method of strengthening the floor structure can be accomplished without affecting the interior of the house since all the work would be confined to the area beneath the floor, in the crawl space. Great care should be taken to not compromise the existing framing, especially in regard to the existing joists, by removal of existing framing. The framing should be supplemented only, not replaced.

Of extreme importance is that the building wall, ceiling and roof framing should not be modified to accommodate the proposed park office use. This is a very significant part of the cottage.

In summary:

- Repair deteriorated, significantly deteriorated, or inappropriate, non-significant floor framing.
- Protect the wall ceiling and roof framing from modifications to accommodate the proposed office use.
- Arrange the use functions to minimize floor- framing supplementation to support office functions.

Roofing: As previously stated, the composition roofing on the main portion of the house should be replaced to match the 1957 roofing material. Additional research is required to identify the composition and manufacturer of the roofing. The existing roofing is over a layer of plywood. It is unknown if an underlayment exists between the roofing and the plywood

decking. An underlayment, such as building felt or a high temperature waterproofing underlayment should be provided in the reroofing.

The metal roofing on the rear porch appears in sound condition. It should be properly flashed and secured.

In summary:

- Reroof the main portion of the cottage with composition shingles to match the 1957 roofing.
- Assure existing metal roofing on the rear porch is securely attached and properly flashed.

Porches

Front Porch: There are no major requirements for the front porch other than making sure the porch railings are properly and soundly secured and the finishes appropriate in color and detail. There is an opportunity to interpret the earlier Creole cottage by exposing one of the earlier chamfered columns within the 1880s boxed column on the south end of the front gallery. The exposure of the inside surface of the earlier column will reveal the column profile and the size and means of attachment for the original two rail porch railing. This interpretative station can be achieved with little or no distraction from the exterior appearance of the building from the yard or the visitor experience on the front porch.

The porch steps are in need of repair. The steps on the north end of the front porch must be righted. It will likely be necessary to install a footing under the steps. This will necessitate rebuilding them. The same treatment may be required for the east steps to the front porch. Currently, only photographic evidence exists to provide a guide to the reconstruction of the steps on the north, and these photographs may not show details clearly. Otherwise, isolated repair to the masonry will be required. The steps will get more use than they have had in the entire history of the house when the Cottage is converted to office use. Therefore, the decisions related to the treatment of the

steps, particularly related to providing a foundation for them, should be carefully considered.

In summary:

- Using maintenance practices consistent with original construction techniques, assure all porch flooring and railings are sound and properly attached.
- Interpret one of the original porch columns on the south end of the porch by removing a portion of the enclosing column at a location not visible from the front of the building.
- Repair steps, including the installation of a concrete footing if deemed appropriate.

Rear Porch: Though within the period of significance, the rear porch was a late addition to the house. However, earlier materials from the front porch were used in the flooring. It appears in sound condition and needs only maintenance and the treatments required to coordinate with the provision of ADA access at the rear of the house. It may be necessary to obtain a variance from the ADA requirements to install the access at the rear, rather than the front of the house, but the maintenance of the presentation of the front of the house at the end of the period of significance should take priority. No documentation was found for this report indicating when the concrete steps to the rear porch were installed.

Doris Brett Vincent described the earlier, wooden porch steps as being single, wide (11") planks with no risers or handrails, but she was unclear about whether such steps were installed when the rear porch was built or concrete steps were installed instead.¹⁸⁷ They should be replaced with a set of steps that were appropriate to the house in 1960, if, in fact, it can be determined that the concrete steps are more recent. The south stairs should be improved to a sound, stable condition. The addition of a handicapped- accessible ramp to the rear porch should be coordinated with the repair of the steps.

¹⁸⁷ Vincent, 2002.

In summary:

- Using maintenance practices consistent with original construction techniques, assure all porch flooring and railings are sound and properly attached.
- Repair steps, including the installation of a concrete footing if deemed appropriate.

Exterior Finishes

Asbestos Siding: The asbestos siding is in sound condition. Replace broken slates. A gentle washing of the siding should remove dirt buildup and produce an acceptable level of appearance. Photographs indicate that the house was painted white in 1957; it should be repainted.

Exposed wood siding: This condition exists under protection of the porch roofs. The primary requirement is to properly paint and maintain this feature.

Trim: There is a limited amount of decorative millwork on the exterior. Any deteriorated millwork should be first repaired with a consolidating material, if feasible, or, at a maximum, where extensive deterioration exists, be replaced to match existing only in the areas of such deterioration. Painting sound and properly attached millwork should suffice in the treatment of this feature. Paint sample No. 21 indicates that the shutters of the house were painted dark green in the mid to late 20th century. All other trim was painted white.

In summary:

- Replace broken asbestos shingles and clean with a gentle detergent and water.
- Maintain proper paint applications on the siding and trim consistent with an understanding of the appropriate type and color based on the paint analysis.

Windows: The windows are, overall, in sound condition. Each frame and sash should be carefully examined to determine if any repair

and maintenance is required. Beyond remedial repair of existing conditions, routine maintenance and painting should substantially address the needs of the windows in the buildings. Cracked or broken glass should be replaced with glass matching existing.

In summary:

- Perform minor repairs as required.
- Develop and implement an appropriate maintenance program for the windows.

Doors: The doors in the structure are deemed to be significant within the period of significance. No extensive deterioration was identified in any of the doors. Only one door in the cottage was not painted, the rear hall door, D9. D9 is stained and should remain stained. Restoration of the stain may be appropriate. Therefore, cleaning and repair of hardware, and preparing and painting of the doors as deemed appropriate based on the paint analysis represent the majority of the work associated with this feature.

In summary:

- Clean and repair door hardware.
- Prepare and paint doors, except D9, which should retain its stained finish.

Floors: There are several floor treatments to be addressed in the improvement program. There are the older, worn floors in the south end of the house, the sheet vinyl floors in the hall and kitchen, and the newer and refinished floors in the north end of the house. The wood floors should be retained and protected from inappropriate wear associated with office use. Types of inappropriate wear include but are not limited to chair caster and slide wear, desk leg scarring, and file cabinet damage. Protection should be provided under all furniture. Clear runners and area protection can be provided in especially heavily- used areas. It is believed that the current finish of the wood floors reflects the finish at the end of the period of significance. This is the condition the preservation treatment will respect. Therefore, no significant refinishing

or other treatment is anticipated other than protection of the existing finishes.

The sheet vinyl should be repaired as necessary and its attachment secured where it has been pulled away. Otherwise, it should be retained and protected as necessary to minimize accelerated wear.

If the construction crews are going to have access to the office on any regular basis after occupancy, areas where their access is greatest and routine should have heavier protection such as red resin paper with plywood on top. The grit and debris National Park Service and contract field personnel can bring into the house will cause significant damage to wood floors in a relatively short period of time. In addition, having walk- off protection for the general access to the house will be important.

In summary:

- Protect floor condition and finish throughout
- Repair and secure sheet vinyl as necessary for safe function and appropriate wear.

Walls: The walls are, overall, in very good condition. There are two primary wall conditions: gypsum wallboard and bead board paneling. Both are in sound condition. Both primarily require paint. There may be a limited amount of drywall tape and joint repair. There may be an opportunity to interpret the wall structure, possibly in the entrance hall or the library, by revealing the layers of construction sequentially back from the gypsum wallboard to the hand- hewn timber frame. This interpretation should be protected from the effects of the environment and visitors by the installation of glass or clear plastic covering. While this would obviously invade the structure, this opportunity to educate the public on construction methods over the life of the Cottage should be considered.

In summary:

- Perform limited joint and surface repair to wall surfaces

Prepare and paint walls and associated trim based on the results and guidance of the paint analysis.

Consider a means of interpreting the wall structure to the public.

Ceilings: The ceilings, like the walls, are, overall, in very good condition. There are two primary ceiling conditions, gypsum wallboard and bead board paneling. Both are in sound condition. Both primarily require paint. There may be a limited amount of drywall tape and joint repair.

In summary:

- Perform limited joint and surface repair to ceiling surfaces.
- Prepare and paint ceiling and associated trim based on the results and guidance of a detailed paint analysis.

Electrical: To allow the Cottage to be used for office space, it is recommended that the entire existing electrical system be replaced, including the main entrance panel, feeders, and branch circuits, with new electrical service in compliance with the National Electrical Code requirements. As much as possible, the existing electrical system should be abandoned in place, including panels, outlets, and lighting, where it will not compromise the safety of the National Park Service staff to do so. Any removed electrical components should be cataloged, and the item or typical samples stored in the park archives.

Service Outlets: Where possible, the location and mounting characteristics of convenience outlets should be retained and reused to support office functions. Supplemental power outlets should be surface mounted as low to the floor as is practical to accommodate the use function, either attached to the base, drywall or beaded wall boards, The absolute minimum number of penetrations of the floor, preferably where the flooring is in the worst condition, should be created to provide electrical service to the rooms. Surface-mounted conduit and wiring is preferable to recessed installations. Some types of wire mould may be a suitable approach to both

minimize impact and provide as finished and unobtrusive an installation as possible. In no case should wiring penetrate walls.

Light Fixtures: Most of the light fixtures in the house are significant. They should be retained and restored to be sound and safe in their function. If they cannot be restored, they should be replaced with fixtures to match the original and the original fixtures should be archived. Additional lighting requirements to support office functions should be task-based rather than expanding the ceiling- or wall-mounted fixed lighting in the house.

Special Power Requirements: Special power requirements for fixtures and equipment like a copier, microwave, etc. should follow the guidance provided in the *Service Outlets* discussion above.

In summary:

- Install new service, wiring and outlets to support office functions, minimizing the invasion into the historic materials and features of the cottage.
- Restore light fixtures in the building to provide ambient light for the rooms.
- Use task lighting for balance of functional lighting requirements in the house.
- Minimize impact on historic materials and fabric when installing special wiring requirements.

Plumbing: There are three locations in the house where plumbing is required: the bathroom, the break room, and for a fire suppression system.

Bathroom: The primary focus on the plumbing for the bathroom is to provide proper service. To make the bathroom ADA compliant, the tub must be removed and the sink and toilet must be replaced with fixtures meeting ADA requirements and current building codes. Handicapped access to the bathroom would then be possible through Room 109. However, maintaining an open passageway to this space would seriously diminish the available space for use in Room 109. If the fixtures are

removed, they should be stored until such time as it is determined whether or not the interior of the Cottage will be restored to its original appearance during the period of significance, or, if not to be restored, the fixtures should be archived. If the fixtures are not removed, the bathroom cannot be made ADA compliant. The recommendation is to provide handicapped bathroom facilities elsewhere and preserve the existing bathroom. If the decision is made not to make the bathroom ADA compliant, the sink and toilet should be refurbished and reused. It is preferred that the existing faucets and controls remain, if possible, though replacements may be required. If these features must be replaced, they should match existing. The tub should remain and be refurbished but be for interpretive purposes only. It will require only a dummy plumbing assembly through the existing openings in the floor. For the sink and toilet, new plumbing connections can reuse existing floor penetrations. All galvanized water piping should be abandoned in place where possible or removed where necessary and replaced with Type "L" copper pipe. The existing hose bibb at the south of the Cottage should be replaced with new copper pipe, properly supported. The hose bibb should be connected to a new sill cock with tee handle, and a shut-off valve provided on the supply line to the hose bibb. All above-grade piping should be insulated. Supply piping to the washing machine that was removed by the National Park Service should be removed to below grade and capped. A properly-vented drain system for the fixtures connected to the sanitary drain system below grade should be designed, and the sanitary drain should be connected to a new septic field. Existing gas pipe to the water heater should be abandoned in place where possible or removed where necessary and replaced with schedule 40 black steel, and a drip leg, shut-off valve and union should be provided at the connection of the pipe with the water heater. The existing gas lines to the gas-fired heaters in the former fireplaces and in the bathroom should be abandoned in place. The criterion for whether or not to remove piping or abandon it in place is whether the installation of new piping will require new penetrations into the structure if the existing piping is not removed. If new

piping will not require new penetrations, the existing piping should not be removed. If it must be removed, only the amount necessary to allow the installation of the new piping should be removed, and the removed material should be cataloged and archived.

Breakroom: The break room needs only a small, stainless-steel, drop-in counter sink in new casework. It should be located over the plumbing service left over from the old sink location, eliminating the need for more floor penetrations. Provide new water and sanitary service to the sink, taking extra care to ensure that water will not damage the existing historic materials.

Sprinkler System: To provide appropriate fire protection to the house, a dry system consistent with similar systems used in other structures on the plantation should be installed. It is likely that such a dry fire protection system will require installation in the attic. As stated earlier, any work in the attic must be done with extreme care, as there are significant details, features, and assemblies there. A fire protection system will also require penetration of the ceiling boards and gypsum wallboard to get heads into the rooms. Again, the absolute minimum number of penetrations should be installed to achieve the objective. This improvement is a little different than the plumbing for the office use of the bathroom and break room because the sprinkler system will be useful for the long term use of the building, whether for office or interpretive functions. Therefore, a more permanent approach can be taken, though not at the expense of the historic fabric of the building.

In summary:

- Provide new plumbing service (hot and cold water and sanitary drain) to the bathroom, re-using existing openings in the floor.
- Provide new plumbing service (hot and cold water and sanitary drain) to the break room
- Install dry sprinkler system into the house for fire protection.

Heating, Ventilation and Cooling: Heating and cooling to support office functions will be one of the single most significant intrusions into the historic environment of the house.

Insulation: There is currently no insulation in the house. Both the attic and crawl space could be insulated with little or no impact beyond the risk of damage during installation, particularly in the attic. Further consideration could be given to the energy saving benefits of insulating the attic and under the floor. With the number of bousillage walls in the house, there are limited opportunities to physically accommodate wall insulation. However, wall insulation can cause more damage to the historic materials than it would provide in energy efficiency. Insulation of the walls is not recommended, and insulation of the attic and floors should proceed most cautiously, if at all, to avoid damage to the historic fabric.

Heating and Cooling: Any remaining existing window air conditioners should be removed. All gas space heaters should be abandoned in place, as they represent a feature of the period of significance. A new HVAC system should be designed to satisfy load requirements for the space. The system selected should favor protection of historic features and materials rather than protection of the historic setting. For example, exposed AC units are favored over a remote, ducted system. Consideration should be given to a split system with a wall-mounted air handler that requires two small penetrations per unit for routing condensate lines and refrigerant lines to a small, remote condenser. This type of system is capable of heating and cooling multiple adjacent rooms with the use of multiple air handlers accessing the same condensing unit. Depending on the size of the unit, it may be possible to conceal the condensing units under the house. Additionally, the system should be designed to meet ASHRAE Standard 62- 1989, with addendum, "Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality" for fresh air requirements. This standard requires that a minimum of 20cfm per person of outside air be introduced to the inside to meet acceptable levels of fresh air ventilation. This may require a new air intake louver, which must be installed so as

not to intrude unnecessarily on the appearance of the historic fabric.

Bathroom Exhaust: A route for the exhaust of the restroom should take the line of least impact. Consider the floor as a potential route for exhaust.

In summary:

- Consider the design the benefits of insulating the attic and underside of the floor. Insulate the attic only with a very carefully devised plan to protect the historic features in the attic.
- Design and install a new HVAC system that respects the historic fabric of the Cottage. Consider wall-mounted split systems to condition the Cottage. Multiple smaller systems are a preferred approach over a single, larger, and ducted system.

Handicapped Accessibility: There are four primary accessibility issues related to the use of the house for park offices.

Ramp: The first is accessibility to the house from the exterior. The most appropriate location for ramp access, given the historic nature of the house, is at the rear gallery. Generally, a ramp running parallel with the porch would be the least intrusive. The location of a ramp in this location must be coordinated with the location and repair of the rear steps. Further, the materials and techniques for the ramp should be selected to be compatible with the house and the installation should be designed to be reversible (that is, removable with little negative impact).

Thresholds: The thresholds in the house are close to $\frac{3}{4}$ " in height, well above the ADA requirement of $\frac{1}{2}$ " with beveled sides. Where the flooring is built up with plywood or a second level of flooring, as is the case in the hall (101), living room (102), and kitchen (105), the access should be satisfactory between these rooms. However, the threshold at the back door, the main point of accessibility with a rear ramp and between the other rooms will

require either a variance or modifications to the thresholds for accessibility.

Restroom: Given the historic nature of the bathroom, and the character of the balance of the other rooms, an accessible restroom must be located outside the house to avoid both significant intrusions into the house and significant reduction of usable space in the house. This will likely require a preservation variance to the strict application of the provisions of ADA. Obtaining this variance is recommended rather than installing an ADA-compliant restroom inside the house at the expense of the historic materials.

Door Sizes: Generally, the door sizes north of the hall are greater than the 2'- 8" clear width required by ADA. The width of the doors south of the hall in the house are mostly at, or less than, the 2'- 8" minimum width. This situation on the south side of the building can likely be resolved with a variance given the historic significance of the Cottage and the fact that many wheelchairs can clear openings of 2'- 8" in most cases.

Hazardous Materials: In the course of the preservation and maintenance of the Cottage, the National Park Service should keep in mind the presence in the structure of hazardous materials, both those that have been detected

and the possibility of those that have not. Hazardous materials would include the asbestos siding, possible lead in painted areas that have not been analyzed, and the presence of bird and rodent droppings, particularly in the attic. The asbestos siding on the house is not friable, and will not pose any hazard as long as it is not removed and is properly maintained and kept painted. Lead has been detected in some of the paint samples, in layers of paint beneath the current layer. The house, and especially the attic, should be thoroughly cleaned to remove animal debris.

Interpretation: There is a significant opportunity to interpret components of the house while it is being used as an office.

Features that can be interpreted include:

- Bousillage walls,
- The variety of framing techniques used in the house,
- The original front gallery columns from the Creole cottage,
- The evolution of the house,
- The doctor's office.

The specific approach to the interpretation of these features should be integrated into the larger interpretative plan for the site and the expected use of the Cottage for National Park Service personnel office space.



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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Cane River Creole National Historical Park

Oakland Plantation, The Cottage

Historic Structure Report

